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News, pp8-9; John Charmley, p16



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Weekend, page 1

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Financier gets community service

Row as Levitt is freed after fraud trial

By JON ASHWORTH AND EDWARD GORMAN

THE failed financial adviser Roger Levitt walked from court with a token sentence yesterday, after having admitted lying to City regulators about the state of his investment group, which collapsed with debts of £34 million.

The decision sparked outrage in legal circles and prompted calls for a critical enquiry into the treatment of white-collar fraud.

Levitt, 44, was sentenced at Southwark Crown Court to 180 hours' community service and disqualified from serving as a director for seven years, after the demise of The Levitt Group, which collapsed three years ago. He immediately declared his intention to issue writs for defamation against Michael Winner, the film director, and *The Sun* and *The Mail on Sunday* newspapers over "scurrilous" reports.

His co-defendant, Mark Reed, 40, was disqualified as a director for four years and ordered to perform 120 hours' community service. Both men unexpectedly changed their plea to admit one charge of misleading Fimbra, the

watchdog for financial advisers, but denied two charges of fraudulent trading. A third defendant, Alan McNamara, 29, pleaded guilty to a substitute charge of recklessly furnishing false and misleading information to Fimbra. He will be sentenced next week.

The leniency of Levitt's sentence sparked widespread criticism. Adam Sampson, deputy director of the Prison Reform Trust, said lenient sentences on white-collar criminals would do nothing to enhance respect for justice in the population at large.

He compared the sentence on Levitt with the now routine custodial sentences given to people caught defrauding the DSS, despite the fact that those offences involve infinitely smaller amounts of money. The white-collar criminal appeared to be getting off "suspiciously leniently". He said: "As a society we need to know that the courts are prepared to treat cases equally. There is no justice when people in poverty are punished much more harshly than those who commit large-scale business fraud."

Mr Sampson added that even in major fraud cases, such as the Guinness trial, where custodial sentences are handed down they are often reduced on appeal or the full sentence was not served.

Frances Crook, director of the Howard League, described the sentence as "grossly unfair". She said that while she did not disagree with Levitt's punishment, the outcome undermined the need for a major review of sentencing.

"We have a deeply unfair and unjust system. It appears that if you swindle millions you are allowed to take part in a restorative system, but if you are a poor child from a housing estate, you end up in jail."

Levitt's wife, Diana, and his 75-year-old father, Ben, watched from a packed public gallery as Mr Justice Laws passed sentence. The judge described the deceit of Fimbra as "thoroughly and markedly dishonest", but said there were mitigating factors. Dismissing the pair as directors would, he said, protect the public "for a very long time to come".

Afterwards Mrs Levitt said she was "very, very relieved and pleased". Adding: "We've had wonderful support from our friends and family." A crowd gathered outside the Chancery Lane courtroom as Levitt read a prepared state-

ment. He bitterly attacked Mr Winner and said: "We are going to sue him." *The Death Wish* director was highly critical of Levitt and his dealings in a Sunday newspaper article published in January 1991.

Levitt thanked his family and legal team and expressed the hope that he would one day be able to repay the "handful" of investors who lost money.

Frederick Forsyth, the best-selling author, lost nearly £900,000 in the collapse, making him the largest single loser. He is on holiday in the Caribbean and could not be reached for comment. The affair was deeply embarrassing for Adam Faith, the pop star, and Sebastian Coe, the Olympic champion, both of whom were directors of The Levitt Group.

Earlier the court heard Levitt, now bankrupt, described as "a brilliant and innovative business brain" who delegated day-to-day responsibilities to others and ultimately fell prey to the culture he created.

Jonathan Goldberg QC told the court that £23 million was injected into the company by Levitt in an attempt to ride out what was seen as "a temporary cash-flow crisis". Two months before the collapse, unnamed employees forged fee notes and invoices to mislead a Fimbra compliance officer. Levitt was "panicked" into going along with the deception, but later came clean and confessed.

One weekend in December 1990, staff reported finding Mr Forsyth's file lying on the office floor. It had been tampered with and partly shredded. Levitt immediately notified Fimbra. Liquidators were appointed the next day.

Sir Leslie Young, a former director of the Bank of England, provided a glowing character reference for Levitt. In a letter read in court, Sir Leslie, who lost £250,000 in the collapse, called Levitt "an outstanding salesman" whom he liked and trusted, though someone who, with hindsight, was not a good manager.

The court heard how "hounding" by the press had made it impossible for Levitt to hold down new jobs. He was forced to quit as commercial manager to Lennox Lewis, the champion boxer, and tried selling car alarms. The effect on his family had been "dreadful". Mr Goldberg said: "Truly he is a ruined man — and all through one act of lunacy."

Brash fighter, page 3



Roger Levitt, whose investment group collapsed, leaving court with his wife, Diana, yesterday with a sentence of 180 hours' community service

Major supports Lilley's 'welfare society'

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT



THE government was embroiled last night in a pre-Budget controversy over the future of the welfare state after John Major backed Peter Lilley's call for a scaling down of the £80 billion a year cradle-to-grave system.

the poor for value-added tax on domestic fuel.

As Labour and Liberal Democrat leaders denounced Mr Lilley's proposals and Kenneth Clarke completed his Budget plans, the prime minister made clear that he was behind Mr Lilley's demand for a "welfare society" in which the middle-classes are encouraged to top up basic state benefits.

Mr Major said in Cambridge: "What Peter Lilley is pointing out is something that is occurring right the way across the Western world — Europe and beyond Europe — and that is the fact that the costs of many aspects of

welfare are outstripping economic growth. What we need to do to maintain the welfare state is to make sure that we concentrate wealth where it really needs to be."

His remarks were ample confirmation that the Budget will mark the beginnings of a break with the postwar consensus over the shape of the welfare state. Mr Clarke is expected to lay some sacred cows by announcing cuts in invalidity benefit, unemployment pay and state subsidies for sick pay. As Mr Lilley made plain yesterday, however, such moves will be no more than a prelude to a wider, long-term assault on universal benefits such as child benefit and the basic state pension.

Tory MPs will be encouraged that Mr Clarke and Mr Lilley have settled their differences over VAT compensation. Leading figures said yesterday they hoped the

chancellor would limit the political pain by introducing VAT in one go in April at 17.5 per cent, and use the extra revenue to boost pensions immediately by £1 a week per household to offset the impact of higher prices.

There were also calls for Mr Clarke to limit extra tax increases to a few hundred million pounds and forget ideas of a £3 billion rise. John Watts, Tory chairman of the all-party Treasury committee, said that although the economic indicators were good, business confidence was weak. "A large fiscal jolt could undermine that confidence and have a knock-on effect on the recovery," he said.

Mr Clarke wants to reduce the £50 billion deficit faster than planned initially by Norman Lamont. Influential figures said yesterday they hoped the

Leading article, page 17
Weekend Money, pages 26-27

'Idiots' blamed for fog pile-ups

By ADAM FRESCO

THICK fog blanketed much of Britain yesterday, causing dozens of road accidents, including several pile-ups. Police blamed the crashes on poor visibility and "a minority of stupid drivers".

More fog is forecast for today, but will begin to disperse tomorrow.

The westbound carriageway of the M4 in Berkshire was closed for five hours as rescue services cleared more than 40 vehicles that had collided in visibility down to 75 yards. The pile-up began when a lorry jack-knifed. As a long tailback built up, there were numerous secondary crashes.

Twelve people were injured and taken to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

The dense fog covered most of the eastern half of England from the Midlands to the South Coast, shrouding roads in Kent, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Sussex and Dorset.

On the A2 in Kent the fog caused six separate accidents and a two-mile tailback, although nobody was injured. A

Kent police spokesman said: "People were idiots. They were acting like madmen by reversing back down the hard shoulder in thick fog."

The AA reported numerous accidents on the A12, closing the London-bound carriageway at the Chelmsford bypass for two hours. Essex police recorded 19 accidents, with no-one seriously injured.

Fourteen vehicles were involved in an accident on the M25, which was closed clockwise for a time between junction 29 and 30. In Hampshire the A34 near the junction with the M3 was blocked southbound because of a pile-up involving eight vehicles. Part of the M1 from London to Cambridge northbound was closed last night.

The AA in Scotland reported thick fog last night on the M90 in Fife, with visibility down to 50 yards in Lothian. Seven passengers suffered minor injuries when their bus was in collision with a lorry and a car on the southbound carriageway of the Forth bridge.

Forecast, page 20

Patten calls on public to spot truants

By BEN PRESTON

JOHN Patten last night called for a "neighbourhood watch" initiative against truancy in which members of the public would be encouraged to look out for children absconding from schools.

The education secretary's intervention came as ministers and senior church figures sought to end the dispute which flared in the aftermath of the James Bulger murder trial over the Church's alleged failure to teach children morality.

Lambeth Palace last night pronounced the affair closed after it received a conciliatory letter from David Maclean explaining his remarks. Earlier, Dr John Habgood, the Archbishop of York, accused the minister of speaking a bit unwisely and failing to do his homework.

Mr Patten said he greatly valued the churches' role as community leaders and said they had a central part to play in giving moral guidance to youngsters who were disaffected and playing truant.

Churches' role, page 4

Hitler 'planned US pact to isolate Britain'

By MICHAEL DYNES
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT



ADOLF Hitler planned a secret pact with America, promising German assistance in the war against Japan if President Roosevelt abandoned Britain, according to secret documents disclosed yesterday.

Alarmed by the heavy cost of the German campaign in Russia in early 1942, and fearful of the growth of Japanese power, Germany was considering a volte face similar to the 1939 Nazi-Soviet pact in which — after years of unremitting hostility — Hitler and Stalin pledged to refrain

from aggression against each other, the documents show. British intercepts of Portuguese diplomatic communications in May 1942 brought Churchill a report warning that "there are [sic] beginning

to exist in Germany anxiety and fear because of too great expansion by Japan whose greatly increased espionage ... is worrying the government."

The report said that "Germany is much troubled by the Russian campaign and wishes to bring the war to an end. She is trying to approach the US although the latter is trying to bring the war against Germany at all costs."

It added: "In an effort to reach an understanding, a diplomatic agent from Hitler is going to establish direct contact with Finnish elements, secretly promising the US aid against Japan in order

to neutralise England." The Portuguese official, who does not identify the source of his intelligence, explained: "The neutralisation of England means this: Although England still has powerful resources it is true that Great Britain by herself, without American aid, cannot win the present war. An understanding between Germany and the US would have the logical conclusion that the latter, having conquered Japan, would have predominance in all America and Asia."

The documents, which were released yesterday at the Public Record Office at Kew under the open government

initiative, are the first instalment of Churchill's secret wartime intelligence archive.

Churchill received a daily summary of the best intercepts obtained by Britain's global intelligence gathering operations throughout the war years, which makes the archive a unique record of the waxing and waning of Britain's wartime fortunes.

Almost 1,300 secret documents have been declassified, covering 1940-2. A much larger archive is expected to be declassified next year.

Churchill papers, pages 8-9
John Charmley, page 16
Leading article, page 17

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Cricketer cleared of raping woman at Henley regatta

A SOUTH African cricketer was cleared yesterday of raping a woman beside the Henley regatta course after a jury unanimously accepted his story that she had led him on.

After the case at Oxford Crown Court, Mark Bredell, 25, kissed his girl friend and toasted his future with champagne. "It is nice to know that the truth really counts," he said. "That is what had kept me going all the way through."

Coming after the acquittal of Austen Donnellan and Matthew Kydd, both students, yesterday's verdict dismayed Victim Support, a group that helps the victims of crime.

"At the moment only one rape in four gets reported," Helen Pegges, of the group, said. "It is vitally important that people do report them yet every time there is an acquittal it becomes more difficult. There is an increasing reluctance among women to report them and I would not be in the least surprised if the level dropped even further now."

"Acquittals make it even more difficult for women to come forward. It is particularly difficult for women who have some kind of acquaintance with the person they allege has assaulted them."

Mr Bredell, a 6ft 2in player with Western Province Colts, had been on a sporting exchange with a Henley club.

The rape was alleged to have happened after he had been helping to organise parking on the last day of the regatta in July, and had been drinking beer, vermouth and gin. He

The third high-profile acquittal of an alleged rapist has increased fears that real victims of sex attacks will not seek help

told the court that a fortune teller at the regatta said he was going to be lucky, and then he brushed against the 20-year-old woman on the towpath.

Mr Bredell said they smiled, started chatting and lost contact with their friends. The woman, who was wearing a long split skirt that almost revealed her underwear, then asked if he knew a short cut and he took her through the field by the towpath where they started kissing passionately.

He admitted that it had been his intention to find a secluded area where they could make love, but said the woman led him on and took the lead in everything that happened. At one point she ran away but he caught her and pulled her down and they fell together laughing in the field.

It was the woman, he said, who took off his trousers and underpants before getting on top of him. After they made love, he told the court, she ran away and he lay in the field hearing people in cars hooting their horns and chanting: "We know what you're doing."

Sandra Stanfield, for the defence, told the court that Mr Bredell had been incapable of rape because he had drunk so much.

"We all know the flesh in

that area is very weak," she said. "Mark Bredell had a perfect example of brewer's droop."

She said the woman had taken all the initiative. Other witnesses told the court that they had seen a woman running through the fields and a man bringing her down with what looked like a rugby tackle, but Miss Stanfield said they thought the couple were only there for "a bit of rumpy pumpy".

The woman told the jury she had not minded the kisses but had not wanted to go any further. She said Mr Bredell had rugby tackled her in the field as she tried to get away and then raped her.

The jury, which visited the scene by the towpath with the judge and barristers, were out for four hours before reaching their unanimous not guilty verdict.

After the case Mr Bredell would not discuss his feelings for the woman who had accused him. "I just feel sorry for real rape victims," he said.

Commenting on the fortune teller's prediction, he said: "I don't know what good fortune is any more. This has been a hard time in my life but I am going to make the best of it. I expect I will come back here one day but for the moment I just want to get back to Cape Town."



Mark Bredell celebrates his acquittal with his girl friend Rebecca Pugh

Dying man seeks son he has never seen

By Robin Young

A CANADIAN businessman suffering from cancer who has been told he has months to live is trying to trace the illegitimate son he has never seen.

Frank Haines, 50, from Vancouver, became a father during his teens, when he was in the Royal Navy. His girl friend Jenny Hull, then aged 16, gave birth to a son, originally named Mark, while Mr Haines was in Singapore. The boy was later adopted and Mr Haines never saw Miss Hull again.

She had reverted to her mother's maiden name of Wheatley, moved to Australia, married and became Mrs Winham. Mr Haines settled in Canada, where he has become a dollar millionaire through real estate.

Mr Haines wrote to the Rugby Advertiser about his search because it was in Rugby, Warwickshire, that his parents ran a pub, where he met Jenny in 1962.

Local enquiries found a sister of the former Miss Hull, Margaret Harris, living in Rugby. Mr Haines hopes that through her he will be able to contact Mrs Winham in Australia, and also Mark.

Mrs Harris said yesterday: "I had not heard from Jenny for ten years, but I spoke to her today. She does not want her private life spattered all over the newspapers." She said that Mark was now Steve Attwood, a mature student at an Australian college.

Mr Haines said yesterday: "I want to be sure my son is all right and that he has everything he needs."

Killer freed again after row with girl friend

By A Staff Reporter

A MAN who was acquitted last July of killing a music teacher walked free from court yesterday after he was arrested during a disturbance at his girl friend's home.

Joseph Elliott, 19, was said by police to have shouted during the arrest that he had got away with murder and to have made comments about the recent killing of PC Patrick Dunne, in Clapham, south London.

PC Alan Seaman told Camberwell magistrates that he had entered the sitting room of the woman's flat in Streatham at 1am yesterday, where he heard Mr Elliott threatening his girl friend.

After Mr Elliott continued to shout abuse, he was arrested, handcuffed and taken outside by police officers where he shouted: "Joseph Elliott 2, Police 0," the court was told. "He then said he was going to do his mother, began spitting at everyone and tried to head butt us," PC Seaman added.

Mr Elliott, of Streatham, told the court it had been a personal argument with his girl friend. He agreed to be bound over for a year in the sum of £100 on a charge of breaching the peace.

The incident happened near to where a music teacher, Robert Osborne, was stabbed to death last December. At his trial, Mr Elliott pleaded self defence, claiming that Mr Osborne had threatened him with a hammer after accusing him of slashing car tyres.

Mr Elliott appeared in court in September over possession of a truncheon and breaching a probation order.

The rise and fall of Roger Levitt

Brash fighter refuses to stay down

By Jon Ashworth

LUNCH with Roger Levitt was like dining with a volcano. He would sit at the head of the boardroom table, bowls of crisps and tana mayo spread before him, and speak, rapid-fire, stream-of-consciousness, about himself and his plans.

How he played squash with people half his age and thrashed them. How The Levitt Group was going to be "a global force in financial services". How he was going to make more money than anyone else.

It was the summer of 1989, and Mr Levitt appeared unstoppable. His company had tripled its turnover in the space of a year. Legal & General and LIT Holdings had invested millions and joint ventures were under way in Switzerland, Belgium and Italy. The City could scent a winner.

Fourteen months later, on a snow-bound weekend in December 1990, the United Kingdom's biggest private financial services company folded like a house of cards. Liquidators who went into Mr Levitt's offices in Great Portland Street in the West End found a scene of total disarray.

The accounts were a mess.



There were tales of secretaries sneaking in on Saturdays to erase book-entries. Police on the case later joked that even the paper clips were leased.

Even today, nobody is sure how it went so badly wrong. The general view is that Mr Levitt expanded so fast that no amount of business could keep up. Here was an East End boy who did not have a clue about book-keeping. What he did know was selling and he used his skills to devastating effect.

Roger Levitt's rise was astonishing. After working as a trainee manager with Marks & Spencer, he joined Crown Life and soon became its most successful British insurance salesman. He was invited to join the "million-dollar top table", an elite group of salesmen from around the world.

In 1977, he set up a two-man business called Roger Levitt Pension Consultants. A year or two later, he was joined by Mark Reed and they began to

branch into investment management and mortgages. By the late 1980s, The Levitt Group had 450 employees and was valued at £150 million.

Mr Levitt paid himself nearly £1 million a year and embraced the celebrity lifestyle. He threw lavish parties at his home in Highgate, north London, and cultivated sportsmen and entertainers. He formed close ties with Adam Faith and Sebastian Cole and "discovered" an up-and-coming boxer called Lennox Lewis.

He had a box at Arsenal football ground. Frederick Forsyth, the thriller writer, became "a close friend".

Wherever he went, Mr Levitt's trademark bow-tie and cigar went too. He chomped his way through £900 worth of Davidoff cigars a month — two boxes every three weeks. Weekends were often spent with the West Country polo set.

Asked why they did not have a weekend retreat, his wife Diana once replied: "Who needs a place in the country when you have an acre in town?" Besides, there was always the villa in Spain. After his arrest, the Levitts and their five children moved to St John's Wood, supported by the generosity of friends. In his day, Mr Levitt was a generous donor to charity. He gave to hospitals and old people's homes, and funded a new wing at Oriel College, Oxford, nicknamed "the Levitt" by irreverent students.

Not even the prospect of a spell in prison was able to dent Mr Levitt's irrepressible personality. Peter Clowes,

who defrauded so many pensioners, stared sullenly from the dock as sentence was passed. Robert Miller of Dunsdale Securities greeted his fate with resignation. Not Mr Levitt.

He positively bounced into court when his trial began, posing for photographers with his wife, smiling broadly, looking every bit the winner. It was this chutzpah that convinced big-name City institutions such as General Accident and Commercial Union to invest nearly £15 million in The Levitt Group, even as it was falling apart.

Mr Levitt still has his fans. This, after all, was not a collapse which left thousands of investors destitute. Mr Forsyth lost up to £900,000, making him the largest individual loser, but no more than 50 investors lost money in all. In the main the company was just the middle-man, arranging life and pension policies and making its money from commissions.

Mr Levitt's days in insurance are finished — indeed, he hopes to sell imported vacuum cleaners — but the story may go a little further yet. He coaxed Lennox Lewis through his early days and continues to take a more than casual interest in ring-side events.

All the signs are that the champion has not forgotten his old mentor. Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, has denied any links with Mr Levitt but was unable to explain how they came to share the same office telephone number.

Spotlights, crowds and the razzmatazz of the arena... we have not heard the last of Roger Levitt.

Archers fan blows the gaffe over a monosyllabic cow

By Alan Hamilton

AMBRIDGE is a one-moo town, and the cow has been found out.

Sharp-eared listeners to Radio 4's everyday story of country folk have noticed that, whether on Tony and Pat Archer's organic farm or among Brian Aldridge's beef herd, the moos are remarkably similar. The gaffe was blown when an identical moo was heard on the farm of Ambridge newcomers Maureen and Geoff Travis.

Yesterday, BBC Pebble Mill was obliged to come clean: the cast of *The Archers* includes only one cow, and a monosyllabic one at that.

Jill Wolstenholme, a farmer from Llandello, Dyfed, with an ear finely attuned to the bovine nuance, had her suspicions so aroused that she wrote to *Radio Times*. "It has come to my attention that

there is only one cow in Ambridge. I can only assume that the farming community there has joined together to outwit the BBC and perpetrate some dastardly subsidy fraud."

Mrs Wolstenholme said that the universal Ambridge moo sounded remarkably like that of Ginger, one of her own herds, but whether from Brian's beef heifers or Tony's milkers, it was always the same one. Real cattle had individual voices which their owners could easily identify.

Tim Coleman, the show's assistant producer, admitted yesterday that one solitary beast had to move around all the farms in Ambridge performing its extremely limited repertoire. But he promised action to restore authenticity. "I am going to the Royal Agricultural Society at

Stoneleigh as soon as possible to record some more bellows." Not all cows are good mooers, according to Mr Coleman. Any beasts wishing to audition will have to produce a very distinctive, strong and atmospheric moo than can convey an entire bovine personality in two seconds.

Devotees of *The Archers* are demons for veracity in sound effects, and have been known to complain at the use of the wrong door noise for a particular farmhouse. By comparison, Susan Carter's recent utterance of the show's first recorded swear word is small beer.

Mrs Wolstenholme said: "Just the other day we heard what was supposed to be a Welsh ewe lamb on Tony and Pat's farm. But it was certainly no lamb — it was much too old."

Baby died after surgery went wrong

By Jeremy Laurence
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A BABY aged six weeks died during a routine operation when oxygen to help him breathe went into his stomach instead of his lungs.

As a result of the error, Edward Riley suffered severe damage to his brain, liver and heart. His parents agreed to turn off his life support machine after being told he was unlikely to survive.

Ian and Terri-Ann Riley, of Warton, Lancashire, are taking legal advice on whether to sue the Royal Lancaster

Infirmary. They were told the operation was a simple procedure to correct a congenital defect in which their son's stomach muscles were constricted causing repeated vomiting.

An inquiry into the death was told that the problem was discovered by Dr Donald Macgregor, a consultant paediatrician, who was called when it was realised that the operation was going wrong. He found the oxygen tube was in the food pipe instead of the windpipe.

Dr John Davies, a consultant anaesthetist, said he had placed the one-inch air tube into the child's windpipe with some

difficulty but was satisfied it was in the correct position after listening to Edward's lungs. The inquest was told the tube may have become dislodged by the movement of Edward's head or chest.

Mr George Howson, the coroner, recorded a verdict of misadventure. "It is obvious that, for a period of time, the child was starved of oxygen," he said.

Yesterday Paul Whitfield, the infirmary chief executive, said a full review had been carried out after Edward's death in August. "There is always with every surgical procedure an element of risk," he said. "The doctors did all they could."

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

One day in February

Instead of going to school, Jon Venables met Bobby Thompson at the top of Walton village, by the church. "You sagging?" "Yeah."

And off they went, ducking down the alleyways to avoid being spotted. As they went along, they talked about robbing and sagging (playing truant). Jon wondered what would happen if they got caught. Bobby said they'd probably end up in the police station...

The day James Bulger was murdered had begun. The inside story — in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

RAF woman sacked for pregnancy is awarded £173,000

By a Staff Reporter

A WOMAN who served as a senior RAF engineering officer during the Falklands war but was dismissed after becoming pregnant was awarded £173,000 by an industrial tribunal yesterday.

The award, almost 15 times the amount that had been offered to Nicola Cannock in settlement, is likely to sharply increase the bill the Ministry of Defence will face because of the RAF's former policy of dismissing pregnant women.

Mrs Cannock, a mother of three, said after the hearing in Leeds: "The tribunal has made a good effort to see that justice has been done. I still very much support the RAF. I firmly believe the quality of manpower at the RAF is second to none." She now teaches physics in Cambridge. Her husband is a squadron leader.

The Ministry of Defence said: "We will not comment

■ The MoD offered only £12,000 to a former senior officer. An industrial tribunal has sharply raised its compensation bill

on an individual case, but obviously the length of time servicewomen had still to serve, their rank and promotion prospects are all taken into account when settling the compensation. This award does seem significantly larger than those made previously, but we have only just heard the decision, and do not yet know whether there will be an appeal."

Compensation in such cases was limited to £10,000 until August when the European Court ruled that the limit breached European law. In November 1992, the Ministry of Defence said there were 5,000 women eligible to make claims for compensation. So far, 3,300 have done so.

The two-day hearing was

told that Mrs Cannock, 38, had been promoted after several excellent reports and was set to move to a job servicing Tornado fighters when she became pregnant.

"I feel bitter. I had a good career ahead of me and felt very frustrated that they were forcing me to terminate it," she said. The RAF rejected her application to rejoin eight years later.

Mrs Cannock claimed damages from the Defence Council and the RAF Board for injury to feelings, loss of career, earnings, pension rights, resettlement grants and interest. They admitted sex discrimination but claimed that she was entitled to only just over £12,000 for pecuniary losses.



Nicola Cannock served in the Falklands war. She is now a physics teacher

Troubleshooters scour the world to fix Tube fault

By Edward Gorman

SACKFULS of compensation claims arrived at London Underground offices yesterday as commuters faced further disruption to their journey home.

Engineers trying to locate the cause of a fault in 1940s paper-insulated cables on the Central Line contacted metro and subway operators around the world in an effort to solve the problems.

London Transport said enquiries had been made in New York, Chicago, Paris, Madrid, Sydney, Melbourne and Tokyo as well as with cable manufacturers. "I can tell you we are leaving no stone unturned," it said.

Engineers said they were no nearer to find the root of the problem than they had been when trouble first developed.

The fault has closed the Central Line east of Liverpool Street station since Wednesday and the service is unlikely to resume before Monday, forcing thousands of commuters to travel to work by bus, train and car.

Many commuters were thought to have taken the day off yesterday, rather than en-

dure another day struggling to and from work.

In a separate incident on the Victoria Line, about a hundred passengers were trapped in a tunnel for more than an hour after a points failure near Walthamstow Central. London Transport said the cause was a mechanical failure, rather than an electrical fault like that which trapped 20,000 people in tunnels for hours on Wednesday.

After a week of unprecedented failures on the 240-mile system, with shutdowns on six separate lines, officials were bracing themselves for a flood of compensation claims.

"There were sackfuls coming last night and staff are working overtime to try to keep up," a spokesman said.

The customer charter launched in August last year undertakes to compensate any passenger who is delayed by more than 20 minutes. The cost of a single journey is refunded if there is a delay, and the price of a full return if a journey is abandoned, as happened to thousands of passengers this week.

Energy targets go out of the window

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

HOMES, offices and factories are wasting more fuel this year than they were three years ago, when the government launched its energy saving initiative.

The virtual failure of the energy policy is said to be adding to the misery of low income households, threatening economic competitiveness and making a mockery of internationally agreed targets for curbing pollution.

The findings are contained in a highly critical report, published yesterday by the Commons environment committee, which derides all the government's energy efficiency schemes for being too limited or underfunded.

The committee found that instead of restraining energy consumption in relation to economic activity, Britain has increased it by nearly 4 per cent since 1989. The government's own buildings, which are supposed to set an exam-

ple by saving a fifth of their energy within five years, are consuming 18 per cent more. Under agreements signed at the Earth Summit in Brazil last year, Britain should have stabilised emissions of carbon dioxide at the 1990 level.

Andrew Warren, of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, who gave evidence to the committee, said yesterday: "These targets must now be in doubt. It is a unique achievement. We have managed to make GDP go down, but have our energy efficiency increase three years in a row."

The committee has produced 70 recommendations. They include using some of the funds raised by VAT on fuel bills to insulate low income homes.

Other proposals include toughening up building regulations and forcing supply companies to support energy saving.

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Church must lead in battle for souls

James Thompson

The priority for church and society in the light of the trial and conviction of the two boys who murdered James Bulger is not to find people to blame, nor to try and pass off responsibility, but rather to think, pray and then act. Although murder by children has been extremely rare, we all sense that we need to wake up to the disturbed, violent and amoral behaviour of what seems to be a growing number of children.

The police interview tapes demonstrated that the boys had almost no moral sense as could be seen by their lies, sustained cruelty, complete lack of loyalty to each other and their lack of real remorse. Those of us who have worked with children who are disturbed recognise the alienation which can become a way of life for children who range without security or stability in their lives, especially if they have sustained exposure to marital conflict, environmental brutalisation or inadequate or violent parents.

There is a range of such alienation from the child who can't be coped with in the classroom to the child who is locked into aggressive uncontrollable behaviour based on a more profound pathology which causes quite young children to commit serious crimes.

We can't escape into the rarity of the event, nor into calling these children freaks—they are a sign of a broader reality. When we look at causes, I still believe we need to look first at their family or the surrogates who have nurtured them in their most formative years, and their overall relationship with adults. Sometimes they come from settings in which the parents or a parent have tried

their best, but the struggle for survival has taken the security away and left the child totally responsible for itself for far too long.

To live in a violent or severely divided home churns up the emotional and moral response, so that the child develops a tough, violent hardness of heart or a chaotic set of responses to what happens day by day. The disturbed child is then further exposed to the evil imagination which can reach via television right into the corner of every home and every heart. It is fertile ground in which weeds can grow.

We need a sharp realisation that there is no greater responsibility than the nourishing of our children to give them as secure an adult world in which they can develop their attitudes to themselves, their families and their wider society. Of course the church has to teach about right and wrong and that applies not just to children, but to society at large.

The church, however, will probably contribute more through the teaching and nurture provided in our church schools and parishes and by our specialist contribution of the youth and children workers rather than by the leadership that can be given through the words spoken by the archbishops and bishops.

We long to enter into debate on these great moral issues and I hope and pray that James will, in his death, have jolted not just the church but society into a new era of recognising what a battle it is for each soul to be good.

The Right Rev James Thompson is Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Castle starts new treatment in attempt to beat the odds

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

ROY Castle, the entertainer who gave hope to thousands of cancer sufferers by fighting off lung cancer last year, faces an even tougher battle after a recurrence of the disease. He has already defied specialists' expectations by surviving 15 months with the disease. "He has beaten it once, he will do it again," his wife Fiona said yesterday at their home in Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire. "He has not felt too well recently, which is why he had to be checked out on Tuesday. That is when they discovered it. They said the lung cancer has returned and he has to undergo more treatment. He is very positive and determined."

Castle, 61, who has fought the cancer with wit and good humour since being diagnosed in March last year, was told there was only a 5-10 per cent chance that treatment would be successful. Most sufferers die within 12 months. "I've got a disease that could kill me," he said at the time. "There is a chance of beating it and a chance that I might not have very long to live. There is no way you can buy your way out of this one." He had

chemotherapy, which left his muscles wasted and made his hair fall out, but continued working and raised thousands of pounds for cancer charities. He has campaigned on the dangers of smoking.

Lung cancer has the highest death rate of all cancers, with less than 10 per cent of sufferers surviving five years.

If the disease recurs, the survival prospects worsen. Castle, host of the long-running BBC television show *Record Breakers*, this week began a new course of chemotherapy that has shown promising results in small-cell lung cancer, which accounts for about a quarter of all cases. He has never smoked cigarettes and may have contracted the disease as a result of playing the trumpet in smoky clubs. A quarter of all lung cancer cases in non-smokers are thought to be caused by passive smoking.

He recently told an interviewer: "When I look back at my days in the clubs, a spotlight would come from the back of the room, the smoke would be whirling in it, and I was playing the trumpet and sucking it in at 100 miles an hour. I feel very privileged now that I've been given a platform to complain on behalf of the non-smokers."

Dr Dennis Talbot, a specialist in lung cancer at Churchill Hospital, Oxford, said some cancers were much more sensitive to drugs than others. Three quarters of patients with small-cell lung cancer responded well to chemotherapy. "There is dramatic shrinkage of their tumour and they feel very much better," he said. "The problem is that any cells left behind are there because they have a resistance to the drugs. If they grow and the disease comes back, it is always less sensitive after initial treatment."



Roy Castle raising funds for Imperial Cancer Research Fund with the comedian Faith Brown



James Greenwood, a former banker, and his wife Carina set off from New Delhi for Amritsar on the latest leg of their attempt to ride around the world on horseback yesterday. The British

couple, both in their late 20s, began the Asian part of their 20,000-mile journey in Japan, then travelled through South East Asia before arriving in Calcutta. "As far as I

know, no one's ever ridden round the world before," Mr Greenwood said. "It's more a way of life than an expedition." The odyssey is expected to take six years.

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THE TIMES
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RANULPH FIENNES

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The lecture will be held on November 29 at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1. To obtain tickets please complete the coupon, call in at Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London, WC1, or phone Dillons on 071-915 6613.


Mind Over Matter, published by Sinclair Stevenson, is available at Dillons at the special price of £12.70 - normal price £16.99.

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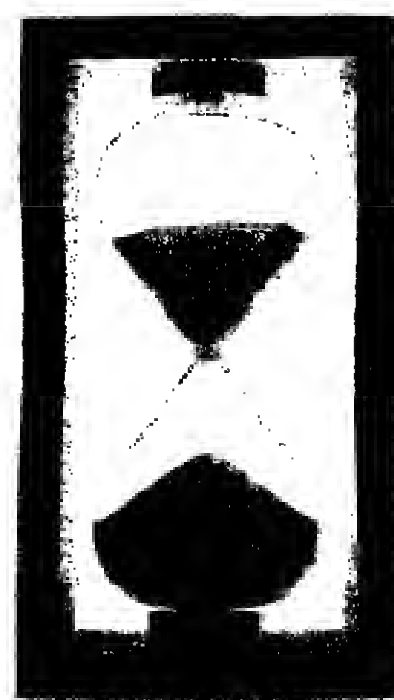
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War papers reveal prime minister's knowledge of slaughter in 1942

British troops were recruited as guards at death camps

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH prisoners of war were recruited by the Germans to be guards at the Auschwitz concentration camp, according to documents released from Churchill's wartime intelligence archive.

British intercepts of German SS communications discovered a request in July 1942 for 80 British prisoners (häftlinge) who would be "suitable for employment as camp guards" at the camp in Poland, one of the most notorious of the Nazi death camps.

The intelligence report told Churchill that "camp guards appear to be overseers or foremen selected from among the prisoners themselves".

The report does not explain whether the request for British POW labour at Auschwitz was ever fulfilled. It was, of course,

Auschwitz as early as August 1942. Intercepted SS reports show that Britain had learnt that more than 8,000 men and women had died in one month alone.

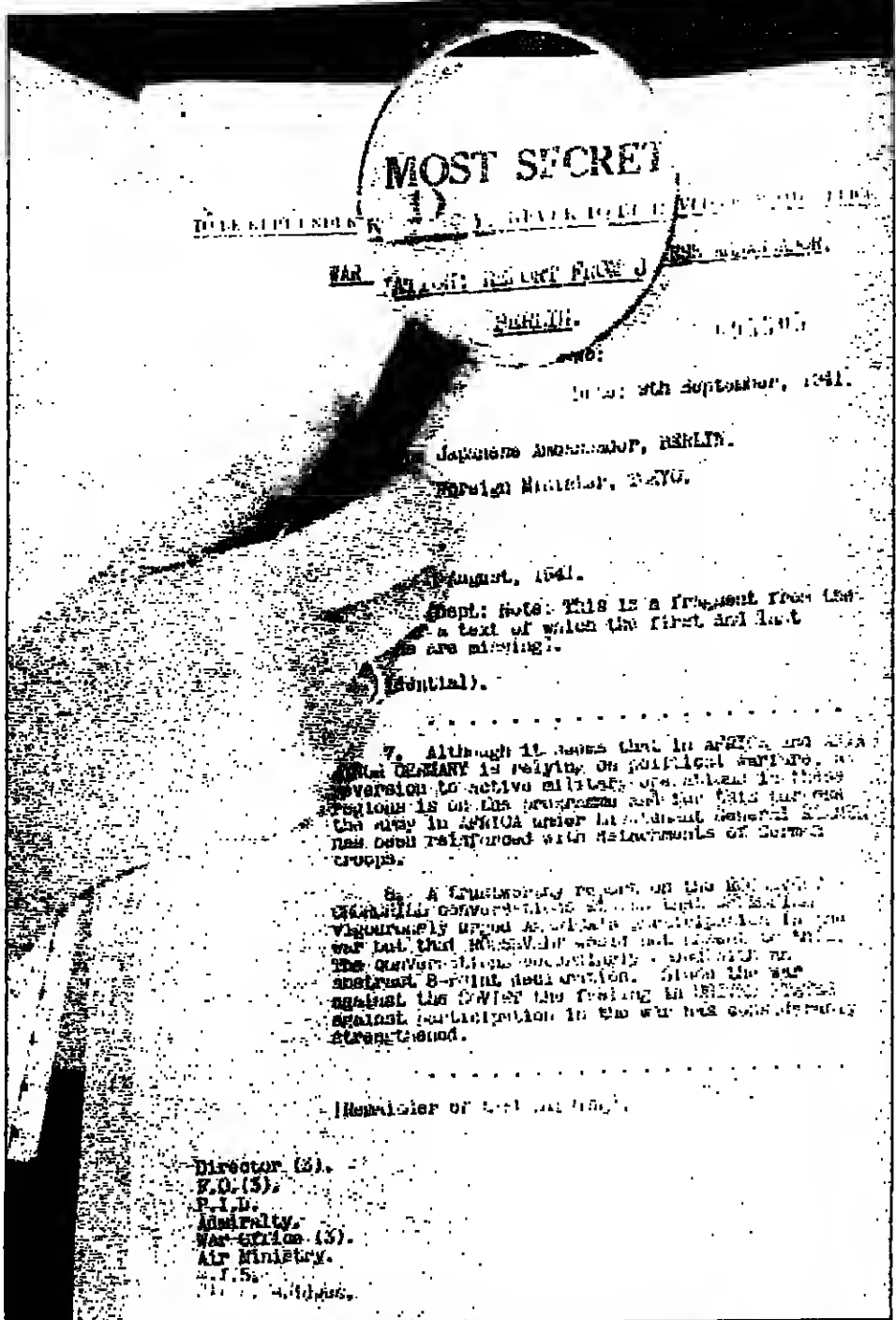
Those reports also spoke of an outbreak of typhus so devastating that Auschwitz was unable to provide 1,000 prisoners to help to build the Danube railway.

According to Martin Gilbert's book, *Churchill: A Life*, news of the "mass murder in specially designed gas chambers of more than two and a half million Jews at Auschwitz, which had hitherto been identified only as a slave-labour camp", did not reach London until July 1944.

In that month, it became clear that more than half a million Hungarian Jews were in the process of being transported to their deaths. When Dr Chaim Weizmann appealed to Anthony Eden to bomb the railway lines servicing Auschwitz, Eden passed on the appeal to Churchill, who minuted: "Get anything out of the Air Force you can, and invoke me if necessary."

Dr Weizmann also asked for the strongest possible public protest about the affair, and Churchill responded by saying: "I am entirely in accord with the biggest outcry possible."

Extensive press coverage and radio broadcasts from the BBC in London to the Hungarian railway workers warned them that they would be branded as war criminals if they continued to assist the mass deportations. The Hungarian government was forced to halt the exodus, and more than 100,000 Jews were saved. Churchill later said that the



Deciphered reports from a Japanese ambassador discussed American plans for war

Nazis attempt to exterminate the Jews was "probably the greatest and most horrible crime ever committed in the whole history of the world, and it has been done by scientific machinery by normally civilised men in the name of the state and one of the leading races of Europe."

including the people who only obeyed orders by carrying out the butcheries, should be put to death after their association with the murders has been proved," he said.

The new documents do not undermine the orthodox view that Churchill did not learn about the Final Solution until late in the war. These intelligence reports will, however, fuel speculation about the

exact extent of his knowledge of conditions in the camps.

It has long been alleged by revisionist historians that the prime minister fought a losing battle with the War Office, which was opposed to the bombing of the supply lines serving the camps in the east of Europe on the ground that they drew resources away from the main theatre of battle.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy dies trapped in pub fire

A four-year-old boy who died in a fire yesterday at a pub in Ludlow, Shropshire, was thought by fire officers to have started it himself.

Two men wrapped wet towels round their heads to try to save David Bromley, who was trapped in a bedroom on the first floor of the Raven Inn, but were driven back.

David's brother Michael, 7, and his mother Megan Bromley managed to escape and were treated for smoke inhalation and slight burns.

Drug siege

An ambulance crew who answered an emergency call to a suspected drug overdose in Brighton, East Sussex, were confronted by a man with a gun. Police arrested a man after a three-hour siege.

£1m donation

A mystery benefactor has given £1 million towards the cost of a pioneering Alzheimer's disease research centre in Cambridge. The Alzheimer's Research Trust is trying to raise £7 million.

Painting home

The Wordsworth Trust raised enough money to bring home from America "Peele Castle in a Storm", a painting by George Beaumont that inspired the poet, and other literary items.

Double death

Wallace Cheek, 83, died after a fire at his home at Newport, Isle of Wight, four days after his wife Elsie, 79, died from the effects of a fall into their open fire.

PC found

PC Ian Doole, 32, is in hospital in Blackpool, Lancashire, after vanishing from Airdrie, Strathclyde, on Monday. He was spotted in Lytham St Anne's.

Player charged

Malcolm Allen, 26-year-old Newcastle United and Wales footballer, has been charged with drink-driving after being breathalysed on Tyneside.

Mysterious way

A church hall at Wickersley, South Yorkshire, was closed for repairs after the vicar chased a squirrel into the rafters and found a main cross beam was unsafe.

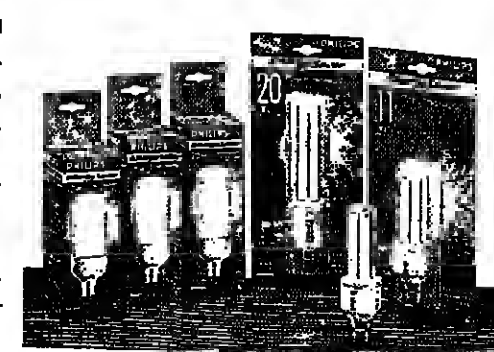


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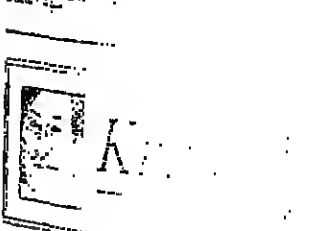
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Why Tokyo feared the irresistible force building in America

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

JAPAN was convinced by the autumn of 1941 that America's mighty arms industry was driving President Roosevelt towards an inevitable declaration of war, according to top secret British intelligence reports released yesterday.

In a fatalistic communiqué sent to Tokyo on September 12 and intercepted by Churchill's codebreakers at Bletchley, the Japanese ambassador to Washington warned his masters that Roosevelt's apparently lukewarm approach to war was misleading.

The president's most recent remarks were "a clenched fist in a silken glove... One can reasonably consider this as virtual declaration of war on the seas (in the air, on the sea surface, and under the sea)".

Roosevelt, the ambassador said, undoubtedly feared the

JAPANESE VIEW

erably strengthened" and that the alliance between Roosevelt and Churchill was flimsy.

The Churchill intelligence archive also provides fresh insights into the private fears of the Japanese ruling élite during the war and their suspicions of their Axis partners.

A barely concealed contempt for Mussolini ran through their secret communications. One message sent from the Japanese foreign ministry to the ambassador in Rome on December 2, 1941, specified that its details were "to be kept absolutely secret from the Italians".

A report from the Japanese embassy in Rome dated October 22, 1942, warned of Italian wavering and "malicious gossip... that even if the war is won, the prizes will in the end be grasped by Germany". The Japanese evidently believed that Mussolini might defect to the Allies, with potentially disastrous consequences.

"For Italy to wheel about and go on to the side of Britain and the United States," the report said, "would be tantamount to her military and political suicide".

'For Italy to wheel about and go on to the side of Britain and the United States would be tantamount to her military and political suicide'

"lack of unanimity of American public opinion" on joining the conflict. But the nation was "heading straight for war" because of its growing economic dependence upon the "productive and financial machinery" of warfare. Long before President Eisenhower made his famous claim that the military-industrial complex was becoming too powerful, America's greatest foe believed that the weapons industry was dictating its foreign policy.

The newly disclosed papers do not strengthen the conspiracy theory that Churchill had advanced warning of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Nonetheless, this particular intelligence briefing shows that the prime minister knew well of Japan's belief that war with the US was inevitable almost three months before its attack on Hawaii.

Earlier Japanese diplomatic messages intercepted and decrypted by the Government Code and Cypher School had been far more sceptical about America's willingness to take part in the conflict. One communiqué to Tokyo dated September 9, 1941, had claimed that the "feeling in the United States against war has consid-

But Japan also deeply distrusted Hitler. A decoded communiqué from its ambassador to Moscow dated October 10, 1941, expressed the fear that the Soviet forces would eventually escape to the East and take on Japan, which could no longer afford to be "a spectator" in the Russian conflict.

Hitler's actions, the message warned, "frequently are marked by incalculable features. It is therefore impossible to predict when or how he

will play his hand" (here the message was corrupted and the words represent the decoder's informed guess).

As an insurance policy, the Japanese struggled to keep up good relations with Kremlin. A report from the Japanese ambassador to Moscow in June 1942 reports that a meeting with Molotov "gave cause for satisfaction".

Diplomats stationed in Tokyo noted the unease. In a report dated February 23, 1942, the Turkish ambassador reported that "the situation of the Germans is being followed with great anxiety here" and that Japanese were starting "to perceive the difficulties of their own situation".

Churchill was fascinated by this intercepted message which he instructed Sir Stuart Menzies, known as "C", to send to Roosevelt.

"Let him know it comes from me," reads his annotation, written in his trademark red ink.

Leading article, page 17



Hitler's resolve to fight on the Eastern Front was mistrusted by the Japanese

Churchill 'ignored plight of Poles'

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON Churchill knew about Stalin's brutal treatment of the Poles six months before the Germans discovered the remains of 4,000 Polish officers in a mass grave at Katyn in March 1943, secret wartime documents released yesterday disclose.

The documents, which were made available for examination at the Public Record Office at Kew under the open government initiative, describe how 24,000 starving Polish children were forcibly kept in Russia.

They tell how the Russians exploited Polish labour to build roads and railways like the slaves who built the Egyptian pyramids.

Intercepts of diplomatic communications from the Turkish ambassador in Tehran in September 1942 suggest that Churchill knew about Stalin's actions and failed to protest to him during his visit to Moscow.

The report is based on extensive conversations with high-ranking Polish officers who felt betrayed by what appeared to be Churchill's lack of concern over the treatment of Poles living in Soviet or Soviet-occupied territory.

After describing how Polish officers and diplomatic staff were rounded up by Stalin, the report said that Churchill was asked to protest against this treatment during his conversations with Stalin in Moscow and to try to obtain the release of nearly a million Poles from Russia.

However, Churchill did not even raise the subject, the report said. The report said

KATYN

there were seven million Russian political prisoners in Russia and that the roads, railways and industrial installations were built by their forced labour and that of the Poles, "just like the Egyptian pyramids".

Four thousand Polish officers found in Katyn forest near Smolensk had been taken prisoner or deported by the Russians after Germany and Russia "partitioned" Poland in 1939. A German enquiry at the time claimed that they were shot by the Russian NKVD security police in 1940, and that the Russians tried to cover up their crime by using captured German ammunition.

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KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Parliamentary chess
LAST week, the all-party parliamentary chess team crossed swords with the Royal Automobile Club at its headquarters in Pall Mall. The Parliamentary side, which included Andrew Bowden MP, Lord Jay and Lord Killearn, went down by three points to two in the first round but staged a tremendous recovery to win by four points to one in the second sitting.

There is a time-honoured tradition of strong chess in Parliament. In 1851, Marmaduke Wyvill MP came second to Adolf Anderssen in the first ever international chess tournament in London. Wyvill finished ahead of such luminaries as Staunton, Elijah Williams, Horwitz, Bird, Szen and Kieseritzky.

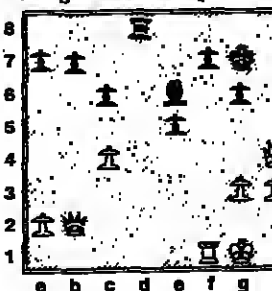
White: P Arundel
Black: Michael Stern MP
RAC v Parliament 1993

English Opening

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 1 c4 | Nf6 |
| 2 Nc3 | g6 |
| 3 d3 | Bg7 |
| 4 Nf3 | O-O |
| 5 e4 | O6 |
| 6 f3 | Nc6 |
| 7 Bc2 | N6 |
| 8 Be3 | Be6 |
| 9 Nd5 | Nd6 |
| 10 Nxe5 | dxe5 |
| 11 Qx2 | O6 |
| 12 Nd6+ | Ox4 |
| 13 Bx6 | Bx6 |
| 14 Bg4 | Bx6 |
| 15 Qx6 | Ox6 |
| 16 Be2 | Ox6 |

- | | |
|--------|---------------|
| 17 f4 | Rd8 |
| 18 O-O | Ox2 |
| 19 Rb1 | Ox2 |
| 20 b5 | b5 |
| 21 Rb4 | Rd4 |
| 22 Rf4 | Rd4 |
| 23 Qx4 | Kg7 |
| 24 g3 | White resigns |

Diagram of final position



Readers' queries

I have been swamped with letters and queries from Times readers. I will endeavour to answer queries of a general nature both in this column and in *The Times Saturday* magazine. Readers, however, who require an individual response are kindly requested to show patience while I work through the mail mountain.

Readers' games

Readers are invited to continue submitting their own games for possible publication in this column. Games should be sent to me c/o Keene on Chess, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN.

Winning Move, page 40

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Mandela says right will be crushed if it fights for white rule

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

WITH the announcement yesterday that 350 years of white rule in South Africa is likely to end next week, there came a volley of warnings about the imminence of civil war.

Eugene Terre'Blanche, leader of the far-right Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), declared in Port Elizabeth that war was inevitable, and urged his followers: "Arm your women. Steal guns if you must. We will make your women soldiers in the name of God and for the freedom of our fatherland."

Yesterday Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, riposted that the country's "democratic forces" would crush the ultra-right wing if it tried to start a civil war, and Afrikaner Volksfront leaders would have to take responsibility for shedding their people's blood.

"The African National Congress is aware that certain sectors of the ultra-right wing are preparing for war. They have already stockpiled considerable quantities of arms in certain rural areas," Mr Mandela told a crowd of 600 at the recently dedicated Chris Hani memorial hall at Crown Mines near Johannesburg.

Mr Mandela, who is making an election tour of the commercial and industrial heartland around Johannesburg and Pretoria, said no-

■ With white rule about to end, Eugene Terre'Blanche has called on supporters to arm themselves. The ANC leader urged all South Africans to defend democracy

where in the world would a government allow a certain section of the population to smuggle weapons into the country. "It is evident that the National Party government is a lame-duck government and entirely incapable of dealing with this threat."

He spoke of the possibility of civil war breaking out just as a new South Africa was about to be born, and said: "The ANC calls on all democrats, black and white, to join hands and to work together to isolate all of those who want to foster racial hatred and violence. Blacks and whites without exception must stand together... and stop what is likely to be the greatest disaster in our country."

Craig Korte, the spokesman for Hertz Kriel, the minister of law and order, said police were investigating whether Mr Terre'Blanche's comments could be construed as criminal incitement. "We are opening a docket relating to alleged incitement to commit a crime," he said.

The imminent end to exclusive white rule was forecast yesterday when delegates to the multi-party constitutional

negotiations at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park, near Johannesburg, requested the government to guarantee the Transitional Executive Council Act, which was passed by the last session of parliament in September. This will bring the council into operation, and with it the first transfer of executive power to black hands.

The council and its sub-councils will oversee the work of various ministries with the aim of ensuring a level playing field for the general election to be held next April.

Despite all the war talk, developments in the negotiating rooms continue to give reason for hope. The government is awaiting an answer to a series of proposals which were put to the Freedom Alliance of white right-wingers and conservative black homeland leaders at the beginning of the week. They reportedly deal with the powers that provincial governments will have under the interim constitution. Signals from the alliance's executive indicate that it has accepted the "framework" of Pretoria's proposals, if not the detail.

Marriage vow unites political enemies

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THIS was the wedding every Washington pundit has been waiting for: Romeo ties the knot with Juliet, chalk makes his vows to cheese, Republican walks the aisle with Democrat.

On Thanksgiving night James Carville, Bill Clinton's outspoken campaign manager, and Mary Matalin, his rival strategist in the George Bush campaign, finally got hitched in New Orleans.

About 150 guests, from both sides of the political divide and Hollywood, attended the ceremony on Thursday and then accompanied the most unlikely couple in American politics through the city's French quarter in a jazz parade.

The closely-monitored Carville-Matalin romance was one of the more bizarre sub-plots of the 1992 presidential campaign. While both partners have insisted that their professional behaviour was unaffected by personal feelings, the couple's pillow-talk prompted the most heated speculation, which they did little to suppress.

Ms Matalin, who once accused the Clinton camp of trying to "fend off bimbo eruptions" during the Gennifer Flowers scandal, even admitted as the campaign and love affair continued in



James Carville and Mary Matalin following a jazz band down a New Orleans street after their wedding

tandem: "There are days when I pick up the paper and I want to rip his face off," Mr Carville, born in Louisiana, whose eccentricities and sphenetic outbursts earned him the nickname "The Ragin' Cajun", paid tribute to his new wife's equally uncompromising, shoot-from-the-hip style: "I hope I'm allowed

to keep my own name," he said during his wedding speech.

Ms Matalin, 40, has been married twice before. Mr Carville, 49, sported a tuxedo and an expression similar to the one he wore on election night for this, his first time at the altar.

The wedding became a

most public affair with such notables as talk-show host Rush Limbaugh, actor Timothy Hutton and Zell Miller, the Georgia governor, crowding into a hotel in Bourbon Street to celebrate the occasion. "It's unusual, it's hard to believe, it's hard to understand, but it works," said George Stephanopoulos,

another architect of the Clinton victory and guest at the wedding. The couple spent much of the summer on America's lucrative lecture circuit, and a jointly-written book about the 1992 election will be published next year. A Hollywood film about their relationship, titled *Speechless*, is in the pipeline.

Daughter of the Empire takes arms against Britain

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

Elizabeth Furse is the sole member of the United States Congress born under the Union Jack, but her present interest in Britain will hardly please the government in London.

Angered by what she sees as Britain's obstruction of American attempts to promote global nuclear non-proliferation, Ms Furse wants to expose the full extent of past and present American support for Britain's nuclear deterrent and so turn public opinion. As a member of the House armed services committee, the Oregon Democrat is pushing for public hearings on the highly secret nuclear alliance between the two countries.

Earlier this month she disclosed that there were "over 40 joint working groups with the British on nuclear weapons". This week she promised numerous further revelations about the "tremendous" amount of money and information Washington has given the British nuclear programme. In a recent congressional statement, she said: "I do not want to have to face up

to a failed nuclear proliferation policy and find our closest ally tripped us up."

Ms Furse, 57, is the granddaughter of Dame Katherine Furse, founder of the Wrens. Her father was a lieutenant commander in the Royal Navy who became a coffee planter in Kenya, a British colony at the time, and she was born there.

The family moved to South Africa, where she became an anti-apartheid activist. In 1955 she went to London to live and married an American doctor. They settled in Los Angeles in 1958. Ms Furse began working with women's groups, down-trodden American Indians and the United Farm Workers' Union. In 1985 she moved to Portland and founded the Oregon Peace Institute which preaches the non-violent resolution of conflict.

Ms Furse said various members of the British nuclear disarmament movement had approached her since she was elected to Congress last year, and had led her to believe that John Major was merely paying lip service to America's goal of achieving

a global Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB) treaty that would discourage nuclear proliferation.

She claimed that, at a time when America was helping Britain "expand" its nuclear arsenal with Trident missiles, the prime minister had opposed extending a moratorium on British and American nuclear testing in Nevada, did not support a deadline for achieving a CTB treaty, and had not joined other world leaders in trying to dissuade China from conducting a nuclear test that last month broke a year-long worldwide moratorium.

She went on: "We feed the British nuclear weapons complex, and right now they are biting the hand that feeds them." She went on to say that there had to be full openness on nuclear issues. "It's a tragic irony that I, as a member of Congress and the armed services committee, can be better informed on UK defence matters than a British citizen or member of Parliament," she said.

On behalf of the United States Government, the Mayor of Honolulu in Hawaii awarded **The Supreme Master Ching Hai** with the World Peace Award, and the Honorary Citizenship and bronze statue.

He also announced October 25th to be

"The Day of the Supreme Master Ching Hai"



Mayor Fasi of Honolulu presented the Supreme Master Ching Hai her own bronze statue, which will be created permanently at a public place in Honolulu, to be witnessed by people.



Mayor Frank F. Fasi of Honolulu awarded the Honorary Certificate of "Honorary Citizen" to the Supreme Master Ching Hai.

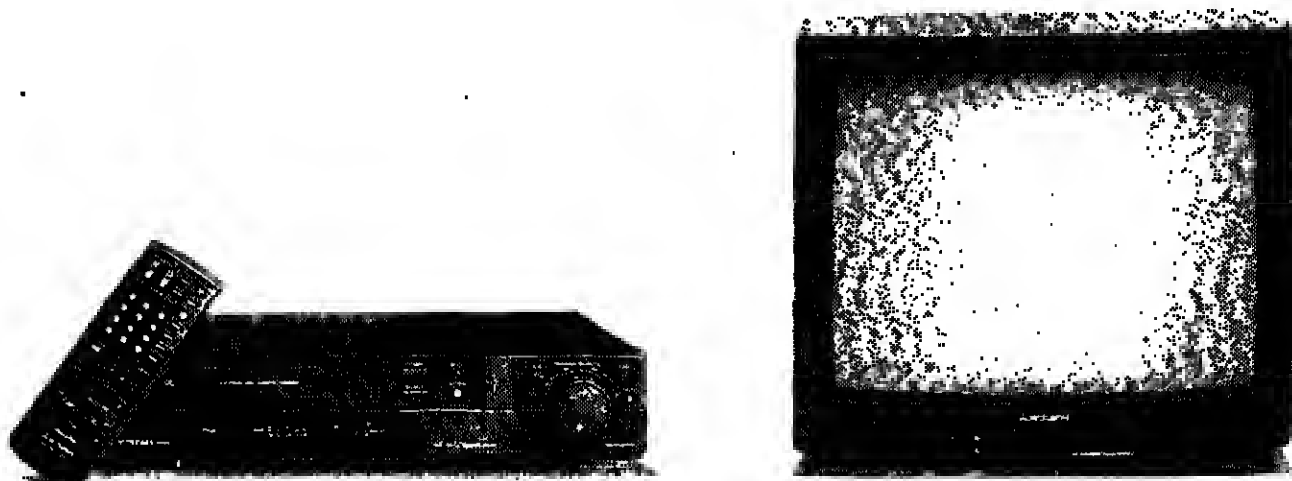
In the speech of Mayor Fasi of Honolulu during the ceremony, he praised the Supreme Master Ching Hai and Her absolutely selfless objective in saving and benefitting all sentient beings. Spreading seeds for the world's peace everywhere, She would inevitably become a mainstay of the international society. Mayor Fasi expressed that the Supreme Master Ching Hai is a real saint. Should people of the world be all like Her, there would definitely be peace on earth, and no more wars and calamities.

Mr. Chen Hung Kwang, Chief Secretary of the World Cultural Communication Association also spoke in the party. He praised the Supreme Master Ching Hai for Her Life long struggle bringing peace to the world, and Her contribution in saving sentient beings by introducing Truth to them. He greatly commended and admired the selfless way of the Supreme Master Ching Hai in preaching the Quan Yin Method to everyone, so they can begin with recognizing themselves, and then benefitting their families and society, thus elevating the virtuous force of the world and creating universal harmony.

After the ceremony, guests and reporters from all over the world all agreed that it was a very rare and unique evening party. There had never been a single person, much less for a Vietnamese lady, to own so many honors simultaneously. Nor had they heard of any living person who was honoured with a memorial day, and with Her personal bronze statue created in public place to be revered by people from all parts of the world. There are also liaisons who can offer more information about The Supreme Master Ching Hai and Quan Yin Method. Tel: Mr Tang 0342 842202, Mr Loh 0865 513494, Mr Liu 0235 446376.

Reported by Robert in Oxford

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MITSUBISHI

Israeli police kill second Hamas leader

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI security forces yesterday shot dead a second Palestinian guerrilla leader belonging to the militant Hamas movement, provoking fears of further violence in the occupied territories and delays to the Israel-Palestine Organisation peace accord.

Israeli police said that the fundamentalist Muslim group's military commander for the Hebron area of the West Bank was shot and killed in an Arab neighbourhood of Jerusalem after he was surrounded by officers in a Hamas safe house.

"We surrounded the house at night and called on local people to leave their homes," police said. "He fled from the back entrance with a pistol and shot some rounds at us. The police called on him to stop and fired in the air. Then

Rabin: says December 13 deadline not a holy date

■ As tension mounts over the Israeli shooting of fundamentalists, Yassir Arafat has warned Yitzhak Rabin there must be no delay in implementing the peace deal

he was shot." The Israeli authorities said that Khaled Zeir, 25, had been responsible for the killing of two Jews and a number of fellow Arabs suspected of collaborating with Israel and described his death as "a very substantial gain".

However, there were fears that the death would provoke renewed violence in the West Bank, similar to the clashes which erupted in the Gaza Strip on Thursday after the killing of another Hamas leader.

After yesterday's shooting, clashes broke out in Hebron between militant Jewish settlers and Palestinian youths. In Jerusalem, paramilitary police stepped up patrols in the Arab half of the city, where 20,000 worshippers congregated at al-Aqsa mosque to hear a preacher denounce the Israel-PLO agreement and insist that peace was not possible "as long as Arabs are murdered and the land sits under occupation".

The latest incident also raised fresh concerns that the Israel-PLO peace agreement, which hit an impasse over key security issues during negotiations in Cairo on Thursday, could be delayed.

On Thursday night Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime min-

ister, hinted that, unless greater progress was made in talks with the PLO, it was possible that the December 13 deadline for the transfer of authority in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho would have to be postponed. "It is better to budget more time and to know that we have finished something over which there are no misunderstandings," Mr Rabin added that December 13 was not "a holy date".

His comments brought a swift reaction from Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, who said during a Scandinavian visit that the only way to halt the violence was for the two sides to keep to their timetable. "The date has been mentioned in the agreement. We have to respect what has been signed. It is up to both sides to implement what was agreed," he said.

Of the violence, he said: "It is very dangerous and very serious. This escalation has to be stopped. The only way to stop it is the quick implementation of the agreements on the ground and not delays." After the second Hamas leader had been killed, Mr Arafat said in Stockholm: "Many of those who have been assassinated in southern Lebanon and Gaza are my dear friends and colleagues. It is part of the



Children push a burning truck tyre into a road in the Gaza Strip during protests over the killing of a Palestinian leader

price we are paying for peace." In spite of his optimism, it is unclear how the PLO and its untested police force would hope to keep the peace in areas under their control, particularly as militants on both sides appear to be flexing their muscles. For instance, Gaza

was paralysed for the second straight day yesterday by youths imposing a strike to protest at the killing of the Hamas military commander on Wednesday.

In Jericho, a 20-car convoy of reserve officers in the Israeli army drove through the town

in protest against the agreement. In an even more disturbing development, Avraham Toledano, an extremist rabbi, was arrested at Ben Gurion airport, trying to smuggle bomb-making equipment and manuals into the country from America. Mr

Arafat had two hours of talks with Carl Bildt, the Swedish prime minister, on the second leg of a four-nation Nordic tour. Newspapers reported Sweden had pledged £100 million in grants to Palestinians over the next five years to bolster the peace pact.

Jerusalem lays vexed problem to rest

BY RICHARD BEESTON

WHEN workmen clearing the ground for a new housing project uncovered a mass grave near the stone walls of Jerusalem's Old City, the authorities knew they could expect the worst. Although the 2,000 victims of a Persian massacre had died more than a millennium earlier, the perspective of history is rarely of much help in reducing the intensity of the argument between rival religious faiths in a city that has been fought over for 3,000 years.

After archaeologists confirmed that the burial ground was in a cave amid Byzantine inscriptions, crosses and coins, the Greek Orthodox Church laid claim to the bones. Further investigation by the Israel Antiquities Authority confirmed that here had been a massacre of Christians near the site, beside today's Jaffa Gate, in AD614. The authorities duly promised to return the bones to the Orthodox patri-

archate after historians had completed their inspection.

Not to be left out, however, officials at the Atra Kadisha, the ultra-orthodox association for the protection of Jewish graves, insisted that at least some of the skeletons were Jewish and argued, sometimes violently, that they should be reburied in a Jewish cemetery.

In any other country, the ensuing argument might have been brushed aside. In Jerusalem, however, nobody in authority, least of all Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister and religious affairs minister, can take such disputes lightly.

For the first time in the city's modern history, the municipal council is controlled by ultra-orthodox parties while, at national level, Mr Rabin depends on the co-operation of religious parties to keep his coalition government afloat. The Israeli government also has to be seen to

be even-handed with the Christian community, particularly since it claims to respect the religious rights of all faiths in the city.

As a result, the compromise solution was executed amid strict secrecy on Wednesday when the bones were reburied by Israeli grave diggers in a forest on neutral ground. "Out of respect to the dead, I decided to move quickly and bury them this week with no priests and no rabbis," said Zeev Rotenberg, director-general of the religious affairs ministry. "I am not saying that everybody was happy but, if it is accepted, then all future disputed graves can be buried here."

Although the compromise appears to be holding, the episode has served to prove that Jerusalem is still the world's only necropolis, where, in the words of Yehuda Amichai, the Israeli poet, "the vote has been given to the dead".

Jittery Cairo fears militants have infiltrated security net

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

MORE than 100 Islamic militants were arrested in dawn raids on Cairo slum areas yesterday and extra police rushed to guard public buildings and mosques in the wake of Thursday's failed assassination attempt against Atef Sedki, the prime minister.

The narrowness with which he escaped death in Cairo's most heavily guarded suburb has increased fears that members of the security forces have been infiltrated by the militant Muslim group, Jihad.

Security sources said that police were checking the identity of a conscript policeman

seriously wounded in the blast who was taken to hospital and found to have no identity papers. Three more of the wounded, including a six-year-old girl in a coma, were reported in critical condition.

The 20lb bomb was the biggest and most sophisticated yet used by the Muslim militants.

Egyptian officials maintain that Iran and Sudan are helping to finance and train the militants, whose 18-month campaign has defied all attempts by the authorities to crush it.

In a sign of the growing

mood of anxiety inside the cabinet, which has seen three ministers survive murder attempts in seven months, Cairo's central Tahrir Square, the site of the 18-storey government administrative headquarters, was ringed with police yesterday who moved on cars trying to stop or discharge passengers.

Mr Sedki, who appeared on television to show he was unhurt, called for a review of ministers' security. It is believed he escaped death only because he was in an armoured car, not standard issue for cabinet members.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Baghdad bows to UN arms demand

New York: Iraq yesterday formally accepted long-term monitoring of its weapons potential and said it hoped that the United Nations Security Council would now lift its three-year-old ban on the export of oil. Said al-Sahaf, the Iraqi foreign minister, said in a letter to the council.

Iraq's failure so far to give its formal assent for monitoring its arms potential, has been a key obstacle to lifting sanctions imposed in 1990 in response to Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait.

However, the security council has not yet given Iraq a clean bill of health concerning the destruction of its existing nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic arsenals and facilities. (Reuters)

Envoy seized

Sanaa: Hayes Mahoney, a US diplomat, was seized by unidentified abductors in the Yemeni capital after a British Airways reception, police sources said. No demands have yet been made. (AP)

Burundi toll

Nairobi: Paul Munyemburi, the Burundi foreign minister, said the death toll in massacres now sweeping the Central African nation may top that of the 1972 upheaval that left 150,000 dead. (Reuters)

Belgian protest

Brussels: Belgium's first general strike since 1936 brought the country to a standstill and forced the government to agree to talks with the trade unions on its plans to freeze wages and raise taxes.

Poll timetable

Freetown: Sierra Leone's military government has announced a timetable for the return to democracy which would put an elected civilian government back in power by the end of 1995. (Reuters)

Colony talks

Hong Kong: Britain and China began a last-ditch round of talks on the colony's political future with the chief British negotiator saying a "wide gap" separates the two sides.

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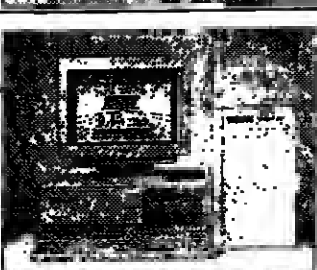
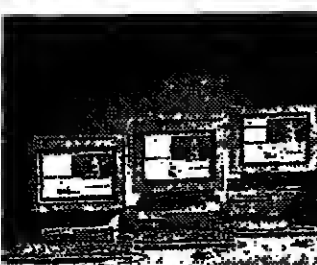
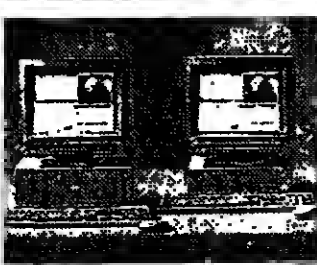
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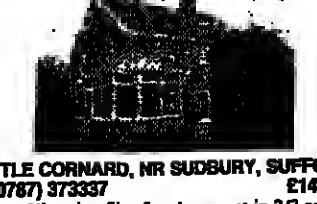
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Secluded Mews house 4 mins walk to Gloucester Rd underground. Ground floor cloakroom, lounge, dining room/study, kitchen. Master bedroom, en suite bathroom, two further double bedrooms - second bathroom. Gas CH. Redecorated. Residents parking. Tel: 0483 302709 Day. 081 994 1066 Eve.




ROYAL CRESCENT, BRIGHTON
£350,000 Tel: 081 979 3680

Superb seafront residence with magnificent sea views and double garage. Totally renovated to highest standard 1985 and well maintained. 5/7 bedrooms arranged over 5 floors incl. gymnasium. Fully equipped kitchen and master bedroom with lg bathroom en-suite. G.L.H. Patio garden.



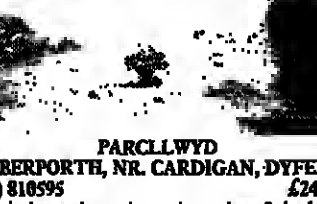
COOMBE HILL

Private cul de sac large detached master bedroom/dressing/ bathroom suite, 3 further bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 clocks, 2 large terraces, large landscaped garden with swimming pool, kitchen/breakfast room, family room, sun room, double garage, well stocked SW enclosed garden. Quick sale £435,000 Tel: 081 942 7983 (weekends & even)




WEST WALES
Nr Lampeter, Dyfed. Tel: 0570 45226 £249,000

Superb late Victorian colonial style large country house, 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, or easily arranged with separate flat. Fully restored and modernised to the highest standard through retaining of original features, on edge of quiet village. Set with outbuildings in 4 1/2 acres.



PARCLLWYD
ABERGORTH, NR CARDIGAN, DYFED
(0239) 810595 £245,000

Main house large detached bungalow, 3 double bedrooms, to include 2 smaller bungalows used as holiday let. All set in 4.5 acres of beauty arranged as 2 paddocks, gardens, woodland and a huge pond attracting fascinating wild life.



WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK

Centre of picturesque market town. Grade 2 listed, fully renovated. 3 beds, 3 rec, study, bathroom, 2 WC. Norwich 8 miles. £120,000. Tel: 0953 603813




'CRANGANOUR'
Lichfield Western Road

With panoramic views across Lichfield to the Attercliffe falls. Offering spacious family accommodation or B&B potential in popular tourist area. Oak kitchen, utility room, breakfast room, lounge, sitting room, five bedrooms, WC, cellar, garage, garden. £150,000. Tel: (05202) 510 Offers over £75,000



CAPEL MANOR KENNELS, ENFIELD

Home and business set in 8 acres of gardens and paddock. Home comprises a 5 bedroom detached bungalow with heated oak floor, swimming pool, bar, billiard room, a successful kennels and cattery with a growing turnover and lots of potential. Approx £2.2 million. Tel: 081-588 2883



HOVE, EAST SUSSEX

A fine detached house of true quality, having a wealth of oak beams floor & panelling. 2 rec rms (24'x17' drwg. rm) sun loggia, kitchen/breakfast rm, 5 beds (master bed - en-suite bath & dressing room) Secluded gardens of 1/2 acre det garage. Tel: 0273-558000. £280,000.



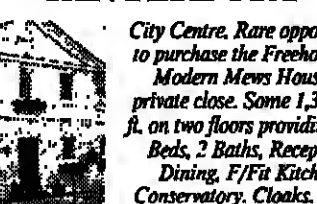
OULTON BROAD LOWESTOFT
SUFFOLK TEL: 0502 501136

The focal point of this modern 3 bedroom house is The Broad; Sailing; Birds; Moorings; Broad & Sea access; 28ft lounge with Broad views; Large Double Garage/workshop; Compact easily maintained garden; Shops 2 Mins. £85,000



CENTRAL OXFORD Riverside 3-bed modern house.
Tel: (0865) 251521 £149,500

Facing south, balcony to the Thames, 5 minutes' walk to the High Street, 10 minutes' walk to the city centre, conservatory, bathroom, cloakroom, gas central heating, own parking, gardens front and rear. Lovingly tended, immaculate condition.



CANTERBURY
City Centre. Rare opportunity to purchase the Freehold of a Modern Mews House in private close. Some 1,300 Sq. ft. on two floors providing 2 D. Beds, 2 Baths, Reception, Dining, F/Pa Kitchen, Conservatory, Cloaks, Patio, Garage, GCH, CHW. £140,000 incl. CCF&F. 0227 464552



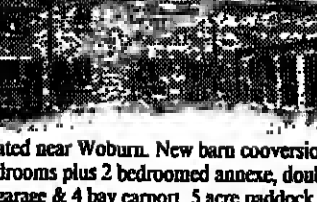
ENGLEFIELD GREEN Surrey
Detached family house c1900 set in country atmosphere yet close to M25, M3, M1.

Large hall, 4 recep, principal bedroom ensuite bathroom and dressing room, 4 other beds. Family bathroom, kitchen, utility, double garage and 1/2 acre. £410,000 Freehold Tel: 0784 436029




WEST KNAPTON
Nr. Malton, Yorkshire. £310,000
Tel: (0944) 758585

Attractive farmhouse - rural but not isolated. 3 reception, 4 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, farmhouse kitchen. Also 16,000 sq.ft. modern agricultural buildings with permission for storage and maintenance plus yard paddock and building plot.



Situating near Woburn. New barn conversion, 4 bedrooms plus 2 bedroomed annexe, double garage & 4 bay carport, 5 acre paddock, outbuilding suitable for stables, plus many extras. Easy access M1 and main line station. Price: £395,000 Tel No: 0582 592893



PRESTIGIOUS TWIN-OASTHOUSE CONVERSION
In idyllic countryside near Canterbury. Focal point of this stylish country house of unique charm and character is a lofty atrium/conservatory with breathtaking views inside and out. 4 reception and 7 bedrooms. £325,000 Full details 0277 731 555




CLAPHAM SOUTH
Cavendish Road
Tel: 081-673 4699
£125,000

Well maintained, spacious, 3 bedroom Victorian terrace house with period features. Comfortable family home. 2 bathrooms, study. Fully modernised, new roof, secondary glazing. GCH. Front and back gardens. 10 minutes from tube.




A fine country property Thornton East Hall Wensleydale, North Yorkshire

Situated in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. A grade II listed building of 17th & 18th cent style. Thoroughly renovated to provide a well appointed country residence. Includes 4 acres of garden, 100 year old stone barn, 100 year old stone outbuilding. The former coach house is converted into 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 study, 1 office, 1 garage, 10 acres. Offers in the region of £350,000. Further information, contact owners: Tel: 0969 663569



Walnut Tree Cottage, Haddiscoe, Norfolk

Detached Period Cottage residence standing in 1.5 acres, (as) wealth of exposed beams and inglenook fireplace, tastefully renovated, double garage. Price guide £125,000. For Brochure. Tel: 0502 77343.




MYRTLE FARM
EQUINE PROPERTY
AXMINSTER, DEVON £150,000 10.4 ACRES

Period cottage on delightful valley & a country house. 3 bedrooms, 2 en suite, large lounge, utility room etc, central heating, double garage, 15 horse stalls, 100 year old stone barn, 100 year old stone outbuilding, 100 year old stone barn, 100 year old stone outbuilding. Tel: 0460 20442



STREATHAM
Tel: 081-769 0411 £50,000

Well designed, spacious, modern flat, first floor one bedroom flat with ample storage and own parking. Attractive view over garden in Streatham village. Close to High Rd shops, buses and amenities. 15 minutes walk to Streatham and Streatham Hill.



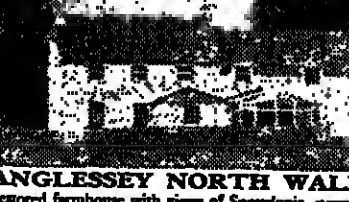
WALES
Telley, Nr Llandudno, Carmarthenshire
Tel: 0771-330 8889 £235,000

With 20 acres and 7 magnificent lakes, 100 year old stone barn and outbuilding, 100 year old stone barn, 100 year old stone outbuilding. Tel: 0771-330 8889




COSTA BLANCA

Two town houses for sale in undeveloped Oliva, one, three beds, two baths, three terraces, excellent condition furnished £45,000. One, luxurious, four beds, two baths, tropical garden with pool, terraces etc furnished £85,000. Details tel 0703 455757.



ANGLESSEY NORTH WALES

A restored farmhouse with views of Snowdonia, surrounded by 32 acres extending to the Mersey Straits. Drawing Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Range of outbuildings. Large modern garage purpose built. GUIDE £285,000 Tel: 0248 810121



WATERBURY
NR WEST MALLING, KENT. Tel: 0622 812252

A classic Georgian grade II listed village house built in 1760 with a separate cottage. There is a fine indoor marble pool housed in a Georgian style conservatory. 3/4 bedrooms, 4 reception rooms, 2 cellars, gym, office. Landscaped, high walled, secluded garden. Driveway with electric gates offering total security. A bargain at £275,000.



CHEYNE ROW, CHELSEA
Early eighteenth century house. Listed Grade II. Panelling, stone, stone fireplace, oak and flagstone floors. Restored. Good quality carpets and fittings. 3 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, cloakroom, kitchen and store. Paved Yard. Freehold. £485,000. Tel: 071-622 3609




DARTINGTON, SOUTH DEVON
Tel: (0803) 864414 £175,500

Charming old cottage with recent additions: 3 bed, 3 recs, 2 baths. Near main road in quiet hamlet. Garden, paddocks (about 3 1/2 acres with further 4 1/2 acres available) and woodland.



EDINBURGH 20 MILES

Close to prestigious golf courses and beach, stone built 1900 semi family house with lovely south facing aspect, 3/4 bedrooms, 2/3 public rooms, large period features, garage, extensive garden. £165,000 Tel: (0620) 843296




SURBITON - 16 minutes Waterloo
081-390 7446

5 Year old, recently extended 5 bedroomed detached house. Victorian Style Conservatory, fully fitted kitchen with 100 year old stone, 100 year old stone, 100 year old stone, 100 year old stone. Tel: 081-390 7446

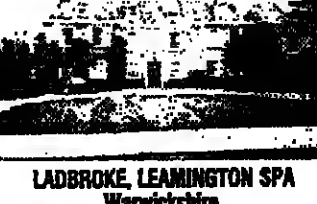


BATH
Near City Centre/Somerford County Cricket Bath Rugby club. Delightful Ground floor flat in elegant Georgian building. Fitted a terrace/Holiday/Retirement/Residence. Double bedroom, lounge, kitchen, bathroom. Large, useful, open reception area. £65,500, plus car parking. Telephone 0273 624742



COTSWOLDS
Nr. Broadway in Gloucestershire
Tel: 0386 73478 £250,000

An excellent family house with outstanding real views. 1 swimming pool, 2 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms and large kitchen with 100 year old stone, 100 year old stone, 100 year old stone, 100 year old stone. Tel: 0386 73478



LADBROKE, LEAMINGTON SPA
Warwickshire.
Tel: (0926) 813726 £95,000

Large two bedroom 1st floor apartment in converted 17th century stone house. Period used one bedroom flat. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms. Tel: (0926) 813726




DORSET
Nr Bournemouth & Poole £290,000
Tel: 092 945 9498

Spacious Tudor style house built 1984. 5 bedrooms, impressive beamed ceilings, inglenook fireplace, 1 acre landscaped gardens, magnificent views in conservation village.




FINCHLEY, LONDON, N3
(Approximately 20 minutes Marble Arch). Large prestige home in excellent order, ready to move into. High Marble entrance hall, 5 bedrooms, 3 luxury bathrooms + dressing room, suna suite, 3 reception areas + breakfast room, fully fitted modern kitchen + utility room, landscaped gardens, garage. £438,000 Tel: 081 349 0105



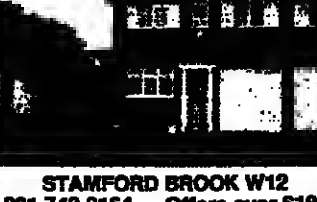
OXFORD CITY CENTRE
TEL: 0235 520083 £98,500

Prestigious city centre one bedroomed apartment. Fully furnished with secure underground parking and lift. Great letting potential with income of £9,600 per annum. Short stroll from restaurants, theatres and other points of cultural interests.



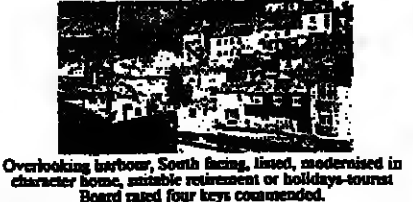
40 MINUTES FROM LONDON
Nr Chelmsford, Essex
Tel: 0621 893353 Offers around £450,000

Magnificent 300 years old 6 bedroomed barned property standing in 1.4 acre garden with wide garage. Village location, 7 minutes from main line station. Will consider letting.



STAMFORD BROOK W12
Tel: 081 740 0164 Offers over £190,000

No.1 in a small new development (1988). The 4 bed house contains a large reception room, with patio doors onto 700sq.ft. landscaped garden. It also comprises dining room, utility room, cloakroom, 2 bedrooms (1 en suite), all mod cons plus parking for 3 cars.



POLPERRO

Overlooking bay, South facing, listed, modernised in character home, similar to a 16th century house. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms. Tel: 0503 72819



HOYLELAKE WIRRAL
Superb detached family house, uninterrupted sea views, 4/5 bedrooms, lounge, dining, snooker room, luxury kitchen, utility and conservatory, stunning bathroom with jacuzzi and power shower, two garages, easily maintained landscaped gardens. No chain. Bargain at offers over £159,950.00 051 647 9181

Bulletproof vests take flak from UK troops in Bosnia

By MALCOLM BRABANT in VITEZ AND MICHAEL EVANS

TAPPING his flak jacket, a 20-year-old British private waiting for a convoy to cross a notorious front line said: "It's rubbish — it's nothing more than a heavy body warmer. If I got shot, all it would do is hold my body together until I got to hospital. It wouldn't save me."

This view of the standard flak jacket runs right through the ranks in Bosnia. Because the European Union is threatening to use force there, some officers see as a top priority the need for better bulletproof vests to offer protection against high-velocity sniper rounds fired from the ubiquitous Kalashnikov.

The value of vests containing ceramic plates was demonstrated in central Bosnia last month when a Danish lorry driver was killed in a machinegun attack. Seven Dutch escorts were also struck by bullets, but those hit in the chest were saved by the plates. Yesterday British soldiers in Vitez watched in envy as their

Dutch colleagues climbed into an unarmoured vehicle and headed for their base just up the road. Rudolph Moerkens, a Dutch corporal, said: "It [the jacket] is not very comfortable, but I'd rather be alive and uncomfortable than comfortable and dead."

The standard British vest was designed for conventional clashes between modern armies involving long-range artillery. It will stop shrapnel and small-calibre rounds, but the main threat to troops in central Bosnia is from high-powered sniper fire. Brigadier John Reith, the British commander in former Yugoslavia, said there had to be a compromise between protection and mobility.

Most British soldiers, he added, travelled in armoured vehicles and did not need better vests. He acknowledged, however, that there was a problem for soldiers in unarmoured Land-Rovers and lorries. The installation of lightweight Kevlar armour in

these vehicles was under consideration. This would protect drivers from shots coming from the side, against which the bulletproof jackets are not effective.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Williams, officer commanding the 1st Battalion The Coldstream Guards, said he had just heard that the defence ministry in London had said that, if the army wanted better jackets, they were available. Asked if he would requisition them, he added: "I need we shall look into that... Clearly, if we decide it's something we'd like, then the sooner the better."

But troops on the ground in Bosnia are sceptical about how quickly the 2,300 men involved could be equipped with the new jackets which, at £450 each, cost five times more than the standard issue. One captain said: "We are just one bullet away from oblivion."

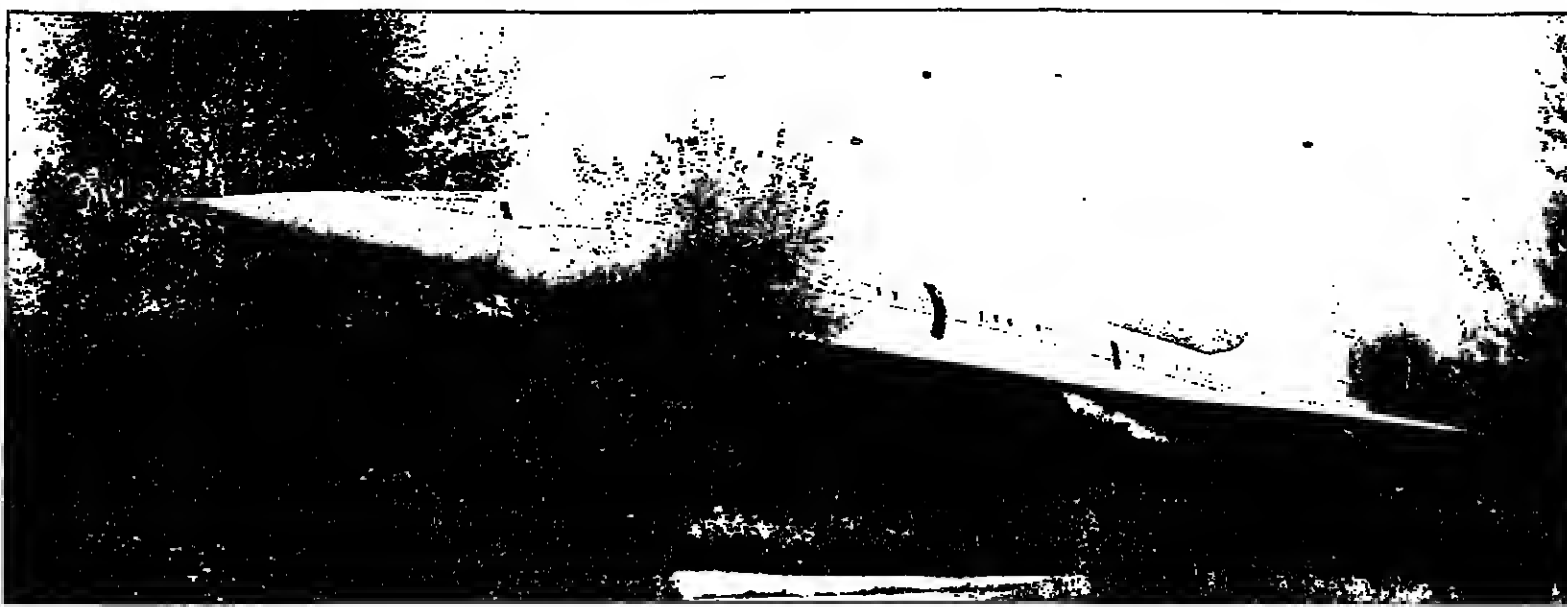
Military sources in Britain said yesterday that 2,700 flak jackets fitted with ceramic plates were available for distribution to troops in Bosnia at the discretion of local commanders. Army sources said that soldiers in general did not like them because they were more cumbersome and made getting in and out of armoured vehicles difficult.

In London, a spokesman for the ministry of defence said the best protection for the soldiers in Bosnia was the Warrior armoured vehicle.



A British soldier in the standard flak jacket

Concordski sits on scrapheap of hi-tech hopes



Contrary to appearances, this Tupolev-144 supersonic jet has not crash-landed, but it does represent something of an aviation disaster. The paper dart-shaped jet, once tipped as the Soviet rival to Concorde, sits in a forest near Moscow, waiting for a Western buyer (Anatol Lieven writes). Such a

buyer is unlikely to materialise, for the TU144, nicknamed Concordski in the West, has a very poor record. It could indeed stand as a symbol of the Soviet Union's desperate attempt and almost complete failure to compete with Western high technology. In 1973, a TU144 crashed at the Paris air show, killing its crew of six

and eight people on the ground. In 1978, after a second crash, the estimated 14 airliners were withdrawn from service. Another reason for this was their consumption of huge amounts of fuel, even by Soviet standards. Lack of fuel and spare parts mean that the surviving Concordskis are among

thousands of airliners standing idle all over the former Soviet Union. The 160 miniature airlines created from the wreckage of Aeroflot have been unable to keep most of their planes in the air, but at least travellers waiting interminably for flights have the chance to study a wide range of former Soviet aircraft.

City where few dare to chance a smile

By JOHN FULLERTON

PEOPLE wait until after dark to visit Dzihha Mulic. With tracer rounds arching through the sky and mortar bombs crashing round the modern blocks of Sarajevo flats, she operates her dental practice.

By candlelight and dressed in a tracksuit, she uses a handtool called an excavator to dig away at decayed teeth. "I have about 12 patients a day," she says. "There is no anaesthetic, so I use a placebo to raise the pain threshold."

She quickly discovered that one of the war's hideous costs is being paid by the children, whose teeth are crumbling because of vitamin and protein deficiency. "Even babies with their first milk teeth have signs of

poor enamel, of swollen gums, of decay," she says. "It is the first sign of malnutrition; the sort of thing you will find in adults in labour camps or among prisoners of war."

"More recently, I noticed that the tissue along the gums, and even the inside the mouth of my patients, was scarred and bleeding," Mrs Mulic said toothbrushes and toothpaste were impossible to find in the Bosnian capital. "Children I see have forgotten all about them. I have to show them what they are and how to use them."

"Perhaps the international community could send us some along with the food they already send," she pleaded. (Reuters)

Mussolini's exam claims mocked

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

OPponents of Alessandra Mussolini yesterday accused the granddaughter of Il Duce of pretending to be a qualified medical doctor to enhance her chances of election as mayor of Naples next week.

The left-wing newspaper *La Repubblica* published a document it said Signora Mussolini had signed when she registered in the Chamber of Deputies as an MP for the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI) on April 23, 1992, claiming she had graduated in medicine and surgery and that she was a medical doctor by profession. Signora Mussolini is already under investigation by magistrates for allegedly persuading university administrators to accredit her falsely with passing two examinations.

La Repubblica asked whether the electorate in Naples could trust a woman who faked qualifications but in her campaign to become mayor of Naples questioned the integrity

of her opponent in the December 5 election for mayor of Naples, Antonio Bassolino, the former communist Democratic Party of the Left MP. "She makes an electoral flag of her integrity, so far as to advise her adversary to wash his mouth before speaking," *La Repubblica* said.

Carlo Alvino, a spokesman for Signora Mussolini, said she would not reply to the newspaper report. "When she signed the document she was about to graduate and then her graduation was delayed," he said. "The signature was in good faith. She believes that such arguments are of secondary importance to the Neapolitans."

The Jewish community and senior prelates in Rome have urged Romans to prevent the election of Gianfranco Fini, the MSI party secretary, and not offend the memory of thousands of civilians killed in the capital in Nazi-Fascist reprisal massacres in 1943.

Yeltsin threatens to cancel opposition's free TV time

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

IN A move which may raise doubts about the freedom of Russia's election campaign, President Yeltsin yesterday threatened opposition parties that he will cancel their free television air time if they use it to criticise the proposed new constitution or his action last month in suppressing the Russian parliament.

Mr Yeltsin told leaders of the bloc contesting the elections: "I warn you that your free television time will be taken away if you deviate from your theme. Your theme is your programme... I ask you not to touch upon the constitution." Since the election campaign began on Monday, several opposition groups have strongly criticised in their television broadcasts the constitution, which they say gives dictatorial powers to the presidency, and the "presidential coup" in September and October.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, yesterday added his voice to criticism of Mr Yeltsin when he said: "I have substantial doubts about how the democratic process is evolving in Russia today. I see that glasnost and the free press have been seriously impaired and the right conditions do not exist for a legitimate and democratic opposition."

Concern is growing among reformists that the electorate may fail to ratify the constitution in the referendum planned to coincide with the parliamentary elections on December 12. This would be a severe blow to Mr Yeltsin and would plunge Russia into constitutional crisis.

There are also fears that the division of reformists into rival electoral blocs may allow the communists and other hardline groups to make a very strong showing in the elections, especially in the 50 per cent of seats to be elected according to a first-past-the-post system. In recent days pro-Yeltsin ministers have gone to several regions to push support for the constitution.

Meanwhile, Yegor Gaidar, the deputy prime minister and radical economic reformer, travelled yesterday to the Arctic coal-mining area of Vorkuta to try to prevent a threatened strike over unpaid wages. Such a strike would hit energy supplies and damage the government in the run-up to the elections, and the miners, like other groups, are clearly making the most of their opportunity.

The Times, Michel Roux and the House of Krug invite readers to...

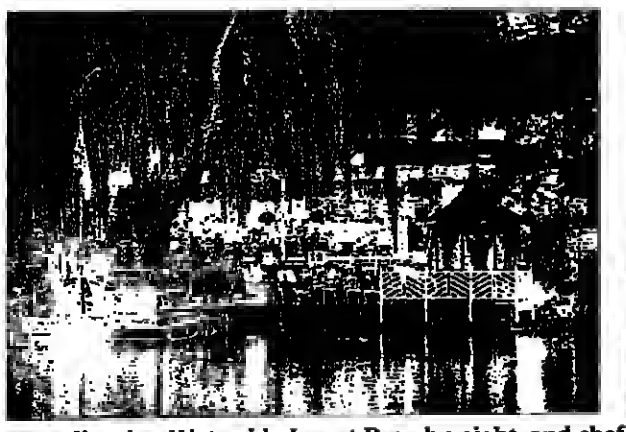
A gourmet Christmas dinner with the best champagne

- Superb five-course meal with wines
- A free bottle of Krug Grande Cuvée

A great treat is in store for those fortunate enough to reserve invitations to this pre-Christmas celebration at the Waterside Inn at Bray, near Windsor, Berkshire.

Henri Krug, whose family have long produced the world's finest champagne, and Michel Roux, the 3-star Michelin chef and Meilleur Ouvrier de France, have combined to create a memorable gourmet meal for readers of *The Times*.

M. Krug, who is coming from France, will offer Krug Grande Cuvée, the flagship champagne of the range: Krug Vintage 1982, a large-bodied and brilliant wine; and Krug Rosé, recognised by many as the finest rosé of the Champagne region. From the kitchen will come a magnificent five-course dinner created specially by M. Roux, followed by coffee and Remy Martin XO Special Cognac. The setting couldn't be better: a beautiful dining-room that overlooks the river Thames in the 16th-century village of Bray, between Windsor



The glittering Waterside Inn at Bray by night, and chef Michel and Robyn Roux

and Maidenhead. The dinner, on Monday, December 13, starting at 7pm with a champagne aperitif, will be a superb occasion: ideal as a pre-Christmas celebration or "gift" night out. The invitations cost £160 per guest including wines and cognac, and service, and each guest will receive a complimentary bottle of Krug Grande Cuvée — priced

at around £146 in leading restaurants — and a surprise gift from M. Roux. From past experience of such Times occasions, early application for invitations is advised. Invitations will be treated on a first come first served basis. To reserve invitations, please complete and return the coupon below with your remittance as soon as possible.

Dinner
Apéritif
Krug Grande Cuvée

Consommé riche de crabe aux Girolles et foie gras
Crab consommé with diced foie gras, Girolle mushrooms, crab meat and julienne of vegetables finished with sherry
Krug Grande Cuvée

Paupiettes de sole, soufflés homardine avec sauce champagne
Lightly poached fillets of Dover sole filled with lobster mousse, served with a puff pastry shell filled with lobster mousse and a champagne sauce
Krug Grande Cuvée

Caneton chalandais rôti nature, jus au naturel
Roast Britannia duck, served with leaf spinach and a wild mushroom sauce, and its roasting juices
Krug Vintage 1982

Tête-tête de fromages
Krug Vintage 1982

Gratin tiède de framboises, sauce à l'orange
Baked lemon mousse filled with raspberries and served with an orange sauce
Krug Rosé

Café Filtre et petits fours déguisés
Remy Martin XO Special Cognac

Invitation
TO
THE TIMES AND THE HOUSE OF KRUG
GOURMET CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE
WATERSIDE INN, BRAY, NEAR WINDSOR

You are cordially invited to make a booking for dinner on Monday, December 13 at £160 per guest, the price to include wines, service and a gift bottle of Krug Grande Cuvée

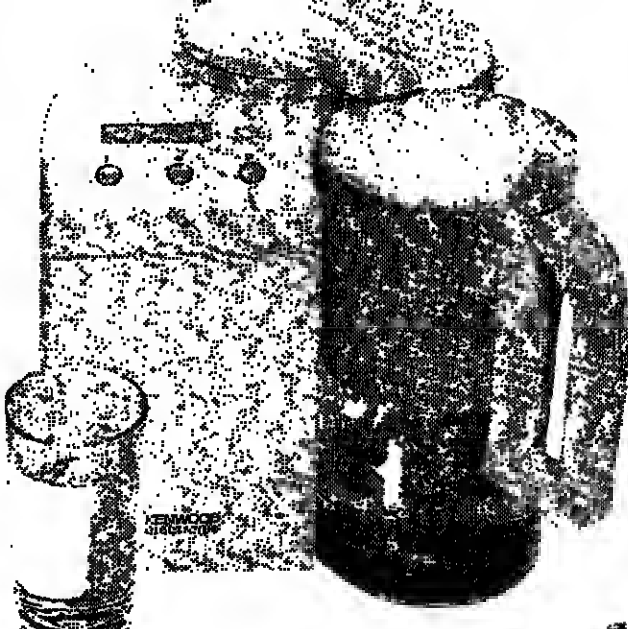
Name
Address
Postcode
Daytime telephone number

I would like to book a table for guests

I enclose my cheque payable to Times Newspapers Ltd
Value £ Cheque number
(Please retain your cheque and address on the back of the invitation)

Signed
Please send this invitation request and to:
The Times / Krug Gourmet Christmas Dinner, Jo Langran,
Promotions Dept, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN
Closing date for bookings: December 3, 1993

TAKE AWAY OUR WATER FILTER



GET YOURSELF A GIVE AWAY

Buy a Kenwood Electronic Water Filter before 31st December 1993, send us the till receipt with the coupon below, and we'll return you a superb Kenwood Electric Kettle, absolutely free.

Purer, better tasting water. And a brand new kettle. Can you think of a better combination?

FREE KETTLE WORTH £16.99*
*Based on manufacturer's R.R.P.

This application must be accompanied by your original receipt which will be returned (photocopies will not be accepted). Please send the coupon and your proof of purchase to: Kenwood Kettle Offer, New Lane, Havant, Hants PO9 2NH. The kettle will be sent to you along with your proof of purchase within 28 days.

This offer closes on 31 December 1993. Claims must be received by 16 January 1994. This offer is only applicable to domestic consumer purchases of one per household, for UK residents only, who purchased a Kenwood Water Filter after 31 October 1993. Kenwood's absolute discretion reserves the right to determine genuine claims. Kenwood regret that they cannot accept responsibility for applications lost or delayed in the post. Delivery recorded delivery post, as proof of posting is not proof of receipt.

I certify that I purchased a Kenwood Water Filter.

PLEASE WRITE DETAILS IN BLOCK CAPITALS

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AVAILABLE IN THE ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT OF ALDERS, ABGOS, BENTALLS, LARGER BRANCHES OF BOOTS, CURRY, SELECTED CO-OP STORES, HARRIS, HOUSE OF FRASER, JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP, MILLER BROS, ROBERT DIAS, SAINSBURY, SELFLEDGES AND LEADING INDEPENDENT RETAILERS.

"Undoubtedly the most sophisticated of products available... Testers unanimously acclaimed the water as superb."

That's the 'Observer Magazine' comparing eight different systems, whilst placing the Kenwood Electronic first.

And it's true: for purer, better tasting water from your tap, no other water filter comes close. It reduces unpleasant tasting elements such as chlorine. Reduces substances such as lead and nitrate, believed harmful by the World Health Authority. And it significantly reduces limescale too — which can spoil a cup of tea as easily as it can your kettle.

Hence this very special offer.



KENWOOD
Electronic Water Filter

For those interested in the diplomatic history of the war, the Churchill papers build up into a tantalising picture of just how fragile the two wartime alliances were.

The Japanese rejoiced in what they saw as the failure of Churchill's meeting with Roosevelt in August 1941 and they imagined that the Soviet entry into the war made it unlikely that America would join in; they were looking forward to the possibility of being able to open talks with the British. The Japanese were propelled towards Pearl Harbor by the feeling that Roosevelt was looking for an "incident" which might provoke war, and they regarded his speeches in September as "virtually a declaration of war" — "the clenched fist in the silk glove". They saw America being driven into war by what we would now call the military-industrial complex which had benefited so enormously from the Anglo-German war.

But if the Japanese saw the Anglo-American and then the Grand Alliance with Russia as

The Churchill papers reveal diplomatic duplicity in conflict, John Charmley says

Fragile alliances that led to war

fragile, it is clear from the papers that Churchill realised just how fragile the Axis was. Italy was not kept informed of talks between Germany and Japan before Pearl Harbor, and the Germans and Japanese were often hardly on speaking terms.

The Japanese ambassador in Thailand gave vent to the view that the Germans should be told to "stop queering our pitch" in East Asia. Indeed, as decrypts from the Portuguese showed, there were even rumours that Hitler was so worried about the growth of Japanese power in 1942 that he considered offering to help the Americans against his own allies.

The Germans were constantly being fed rumours during 1941 and 1942 about the weakness of Churchill's political position, but it is

clear that their main target was, as it always had been, Soviet Russia. As the Japanese ambassador put it in 1942: "They expect to settle the destiny of the German people for a millennium by a complete victory in this war."

They would have liked a deal with the British, but realised that as long as Churchill remained in power they were not going to get one.

Churchill, however, might have taken more notice than he did of remarks which the Russian foreign minister made in April 1942 to the Japanese ambassador. Molotov made it clear not only that the Soviets would abide by their neutrality pact with the Japanese but also added ominously that

"Soviet policy was not that of a chance combination of forces". Obviously, the Soviets would use their alliance with Hitler — for purely selfish ends.

The British were constantly hearing rumours of a possible Soviet-German peace deal, but Eden, the British foreign secretary, was against raising the issue with Stalin lest it "have the effect of suggesting to him that we are uneasy and suspicious about his intentions towards Germany". Britain should have been suspicious, but the documents show that the Japanese never really believed that Hitler would let Stalin off the hook.

Had Britain wanted to get out of the war before Hitler invaded the

Soviet Union she could have done so without having to rely only on Hitler's word — Churchill knew that the Germans were going to invade Russia and that Hitler had no plans to invade Britain — although he did not expect to have to do so once the Soviets were defeated.

From early on in the Nazi invasion of Russia, Churchill's secret intelligence sources told him of the cost of the German successes and the unexpected fierceness of the Soviet resistance.

Notable by its absence is anything to suggest that Churchill had prior knowledge of Pearl Harbor: I have no doubt that will not stop the conspiracy theorists — but then nothing can do that. Still, the papers do make it plain that

Churchill knew as early as August 1941 that if the Japanese attacked America Hitler would enter that war, even though it would have been in his own interest to have stayed out of it as the Russians did. No wonder Churchill was relieved when he heard about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

On the Holocaust, the sources here suggest that the allied governments knew about thousands of deaths at Auschwitz, but that the cause was typhus rather than gas; there are no references to gas chambers, but there are to British prisoners of war being forced to act as guards or "cops" at the camp.

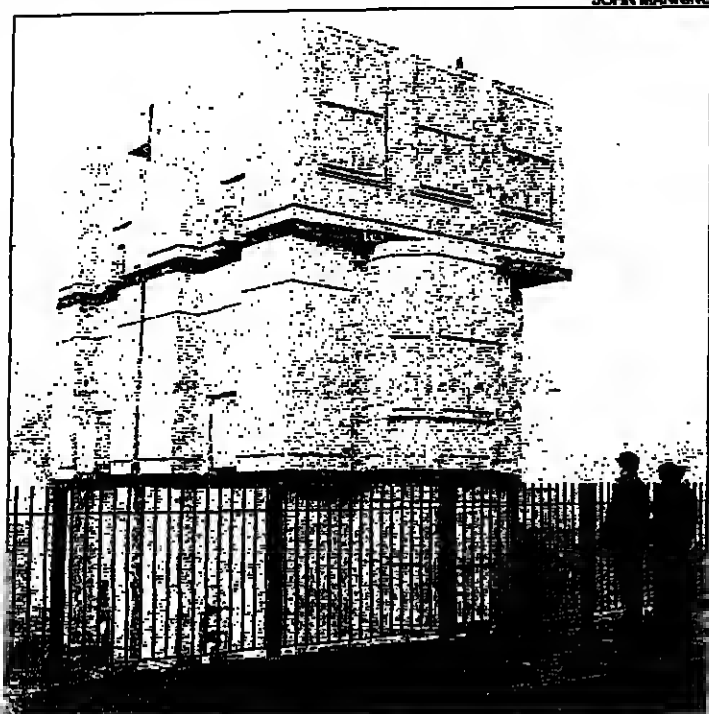
If these secret sources did not tell Churchill much about the Jewish

Holocaust they did tell him how badly Stalin was mistreating the Poles right into 1942. This should have made him less credulous in 1943 to the Nazi revelation that the Soviets had murdered thousands of Polish officers in the Katyn Forest.

In their struggle against Hitler the British were often forced to turn a blind eye to the actions of Stalin, whose troops were, after all, doing most of the fighting; but it made the war an odd sort of moral crusade.

So there is nothing here to revolutionise our view of the war, but there is plenty to suggest that the diplomatic situation was more fluid than the conventional accounts would have us believe, and that Churchill was aware of this. However, he had hitched Britain's star to America's wagon and he would follow it wherever it led. For Churchill, as the Axis powers realised, there could be no compromise peace: that was one thing he had in common with Hitler.

John Charmley is the author of *Churchill: The End of Glory* (Hodder & Stoughton).



Rachel Whiteread's "House" lures viewers in Bow, east London

Our house is a very nice house

The Turner prizewinner's work needs saving, James Lingwood says

Rachel Whiteread's *House* stands in Grove Road in London's East End, as a memorial to housing and to history, to community and to memory. Like most works of art, and all monuments, it is mute. Although it is eloquent in many ways, perhaps it is the silence of *House* amid the cacophony of partisan support and unrestrained prejudice which is so impressive. It absorbs all that is given to it, thought of it, and thrown at it with dignity.

But if *House* is silent, it is not anonymous. And it seems that in this particular local context (I am not prepared to generalise about the attitudes of local authorities), contemporary public art must aspire to anonymity if it is to be allowed to exist at all. In short, it is only OK if it is meaningless.

This culture of the lowest common denominator is exemplified by the decision of three councillors of Bow neighbourhood to insist on the immediate demolition of *House* on the same night that Rachel Whiteread was awarded the Turner Prize. (There were three councillors who supported an extension, but the casting vote of the chair, Eric Flourish, ensured its fate.) When *House* is pulled down, the wooden sculptures in the adjacent park will stay. They have already acquired that prized invisibility which is ultimately the fate

of almost all monuments and which Whiteread's masterpiece self-evidently does not yet have.

Perhaps it is worth recalling what the artist and Artangel, the organisation which commissioned *House*, had hoped to get from that meeting in Bow. Permanence has never been our ambition, though it might have been our dream. Our contract with the neighbourhood states that the site should be restored as parkland by the end of November. We applaud their generosity in giving us permission in the first place. The agreement had been negotiated in March, signed in May. We had hoped to take possession of the condemned house at the end of the month. In fact, for reasons outside our or the council's control, we did not gain access to the vacant property until the beginning of August. All we have been asking for is a compensatory extension of a couple of months.

Hugo Young in *The Guardian* lamented this limited attempt at compromise as a sad reflection of our cultural aspirations. We are compelled to fly with wings clipped by prejudice.

It seems inconceivable that this moderate extension was refused. Inconceivable until one remembers how easy it can be to mistake

House is a domestic cenotaph, a memorial to the spaces people live in

private opinion for public interest. An opportunity for quiet compromise has been turned into noisy confrontation. Perhaps it is still not too late for an amicable understanding.

It is the view of the chair of Bow neighbourhood that *House* is an "excessiveness". It is also his contention that *House* is a conspiracy of the chattering classes. He cannot acknowledge the unusual constellation of informed opinion that *House* is indeed a rare achievement, even a masterpiece. More alarmingly, he cannot allow himself to see the thousands of people who visit *House* each week as anything but outsiders from other, more comfortable places.

It would be disingenuous to claim that *House* excites universal acclaim — locally or nationally. Clearly it attracts hostility and indifference as well as support. But it is more disingenuous to claim that there is no local interest. Local builders have called the sculpture "amazing", people living across the road have said it is "impressive" and "wonderful"; a local resident said on Thursday that "it should stay for future generations to remember what it was like here".

Rachel Whiteread was approached by two locals who had lived in the now demolished terrace for 40 years and thanked for "making their memories real".

The success of this sculpture has been to fracture the normal stereotypes of opposition and support. It is simply not a case of "them" against "us", local against national. The hunger to erase *House* so quickly masks an insecurity about the potential for art to communicate in ways which are unheralded and unpredictable.

On Remembrance Sunday, a public silence falls before perhaps the most successful public monument in Britain, the Cenotaph in Whitehall. *House* is a domestic cenotaph, a memorial to the spaces people live in, the places society creates for them, a monument to both the fragility and the resilience of life. Like the Cenotaph, it commemorates and honours the act of memory itself. But it does not seek to mediate memory into some acceptable political form.

What can be done? Perhaps our only encouragement is that the Cenotaph itself was originally conceived as a temporary structure. But through a rare congruence of public interest and political imagination, it was decided to make it permanent. In fact we do not seek an indefinite life for *House*, only a longer one. There seems a startling absence of reason as to why this should not be.

The author is co-director of Artangel

The politics of giving thanks

A homage to Americanness has become a celebration of diversity

Dateline: Stonington, Connecticut

Memories fade. November is supposed to be the month of remembrance. But each year for more people, poppy day merges into armistice day into Guy Fawkes day. Such days are becoming diary entries, not moments when history taps us on the shoulder and says take care. Norway's great Christmas tree will shortly arrive in Trafalgar Square. I wonder how many people know who sends it and why.

Each year on the last Thursday of November, America pays collective homage to its Americanness. Yet like the Jewish Passover, Thanksgiving is an strangely intimate ritual. Recalling the first harvest of the Pilgrim Fathers, it has never become just another holiday. Thanksgiving's focus is the family not the state. The feast of gratitude is private. But the gratitude is diffused, much of its meaning lost. The *New York Times* editorial is about turkeys.

This spare, wintry New England shore is a good corrective. Old seafaring settlements point their white gables out to sea, as if both asserting and regretting their independence of the Old Country. Weatherboarded sailors' houses line icy inlets. They might be Dartmouth or Hythe. The hills in which Pequot and Narragansett Indians fought with the early Puritans are still thickly wooded.

This is true old America, as New Mexico is old America. It wears its Europe on its sleeve. In 1621 the Puritan settlers were, of course, thanking God. In this part of Connecticut he was a stern one. "Whosoever shall worship any other God than the Lord," said the colony's first, blunt constitution, "shall surely be put to death." The same punishment awaited blasphemy, sorcery, adultery, rape and "outrage offered by a son to his parents". Thanks were also extended to the local Indians, some of whom had helped the settlers sow and harvest. In Plymouth, the local chief and his men were entertained for three days of feasting, "having gone out and killed five deer which they brought and bestowed on our governor". The concord, and the thanks, were short-lived.

The politics of Thanksgiving since then have been chequered. It was revived as a one-off celebration by George Washington in 1789. His intention was explicit. The feast, he said, was an occasion to call on the Almighty to "inspire the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to



Since the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in the early 17th century, Thanksgiving has become diffused and lost much of its meaning

government". This was a political event, a federalist ritual. Washington revived the ceremony again in 1795. Jefferson discontinued it as offending states' rights. In 1863 Lincoln revived it again to unite the nation after Gettysburg.

Thanksgiving was not restored to the Pilgrim Fathers until the late-19th century by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Like the British Christmas, the ceremony owes most to Victorian historical romanticism. The date was fixed by President Lincoln (the original harvest feast had been in October), yet when Roosevelt advanced it by a week during the war to boost Christmas sales, the nation was outraged. He had to move it back.

Thanksgiving's intimacy has always been vulnerable. Presidents Reagan and Bush staged it as a sugary confection of family values and Old Time America. Last Thursday President Clinton donned dungarees and apron and went with Hillary to serve food for down-and-outs at a Washington church. The pastor was frank: "This is a boost for us and it's a boost for him." Thanksgiving has been embraced by each immigrant wave as a sign of arrival, an assertion of American oneness. Yet political correctness now demands that it also be a celebration of diversity. Blacks, hispanics, orientals, Native Americans separately acknowledge America's non-oneness.

The Pilgrim Fathers, as dead white European males, are again in retreat. Thanksgiving must be multicultural, multicultural, multicultural. A columnist in the *New York Post* this

Simon Jenkins

week said it should recall the Holocaust. Animal rights activists have proclaimed it turkey liberation day. Desperate to avoid WASP bias, cookery editors sally forth with politically correct recipes for mu-shu turkey, turkey rollens, turkey tempura, turkey lasagna.

The result is a festival to the most fertile of American deities, the god of platitudes. The Queen's Christmas Message is a mere shopping list compared with Bill Clinton's helium-filled Thanksgiving prose. "The autumn of the year brings ripe and fruitful harvest across our land... a time of bounty and generosity, a time to come together in peace." Thanksgiving reminded the nation — the president chose his nouns with care — of a time when "Pilgrim immigrants sat down with Native Americans and celebrated their common harvest". No mention of banned words such as Fathers, Europe, English, colonist or Indian.

The Indian reaction is understandably equivocal. Here in Connecticut, to show the old ways died, the local Indians have chosen Thanksgiving week to remind the modern Puritans whose land this

once was. Conservationist residents are fighting to stop the tiny Mashantucket Pequot reservation (once down to just a few native residents) from expanding what is already one of the world's biggest casinos near their historic coastal homesteads.

Indians need no planning permission and pay no taxes. Already a mini-Las Vegas has erupted in the soft Connecticut countryside. The *Pequot Times* points out that the tribe donated \$100,000 (from gambling profits) to the Clinton campaign. The Pequot, including anybody who can prove himself one-sixteenth Pequot, have bought land in the open market and want to annex it for more gambling. They are doing to the whites what whites once did to them, exploiting their immorality. Who are mere settlers now to stop them? The Pequot Wars resume.

Yet Thanksgiving remains America's most popular ritual precisely because it turns its back on such politics and celebrates not the group but the family. Newspapers have to take time out from shootings, stabbings, drugs and satanic child abuse to tell heart-warming tales of good deeds. Happy news is *de rigueur*. Sandi is able to share turkey with her family in food-ravaged Illinois. The D'Amatoes are gathering from ten different states to dine together. In Harlem, Carole Shuler manages to cook a bird even in a drug-ridden brownstone. America puts its best face forward at Thanksgiving. Out

of such familial concern arises America's sense of community, bedrock of its democracy.

De Toqueville, always America's shrewdest observer, saw the arrival of the Pilgrim Fathers as settlement not of a people but of a people harbouring an idea. Unlike the slave-traders of Virginia, the English who settled New England were "more conversant with the notions of right and the true freedom" than anyone else in the world. They eschewed property, slavery and large estates. "The township system, that fruitful germ of free institutions, was deeply rooted in the habits of these English", he noted with approval.

It was this principle, writ ever wider across the continent, that was ultimately to triumph over the southern colonies, over Dutch, French, German, Spanish and other European implants. "The civilisation of New England has been like a beacon lit upon a hill", wrote de Toqueville after visiting Connecticut, "which after it has diffused its warmth immediately around it tinges the distant horizon with its glow."

This Puritan ideal of democracy, rooted, he said, in the pluralism of Tudor England, conquered not just the United States. In the 1990s it can humbly permit itself a global prize. If I were American, I would give thanks for this, most specifically Puritan, import. But for the present I fear such Anglocentric thoughts are "incorrect" — even if I did get them from a Frenchman. They would have us both howled out of town.

Back to basic rules



MATTHEW BOND

DIARY

I hear you cry) where the undergraduates of New College have voted to change the name of their junior common room. The Nelson Mandela Room has become *passé*, the students explained from the sanctuary of what is now the Joanna Lumley Room. Honestly, what is it with students today? You can see the next Oxford University v Springboks rugby match, can't you? Not a police horse or riot shield in sight — just La Lumley and Jennifer Saunders running the line.

The city of aspiring teens, however, also had reverses in store for the political right, although initially John Major must have been delighted to see a "Back to Traditional Values" candidate (compulsory morning chapel, tea-dances, formal hall etc) triumph in the election for JCR president at Magdalen. Victory, however, was short-

lived, with the candidate quickly impeached for campaign irregularities (caught juggling the unemployment figures, or something) and disqualified. Back to traditional student politics.

The prime minister, though, can take some consolation in the fact that Oxford reserved its traditional welcome for his predecessor, after Baroness Thatcher politely asked the Bodleian Library for access to the Tory party papers covering her years as Leader of the Opposition. "To research our second volume of memoirs, you understand."

"Certainly not," thundered the Bod. "They're covered by a 30-year rule. Come back in 2005." A kind undergraduate pointed out to the

prospective of Thatcher: *The Morris Minor Maintenance Manual* has been too much for Central Office to bear. Sir Norman Fowler ordered the Bodleian to render unto Thatcher anything she wants.

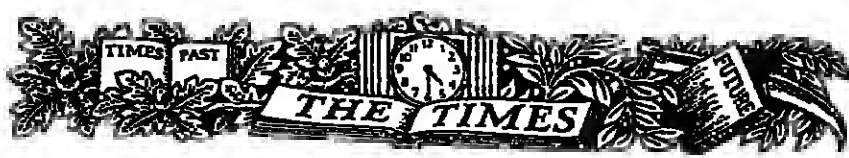
So the air has been thick this week with names from bygone times. But neither has there been any shortage of contemporary candidates queuing up to join them in the archives. Taylor, Gummer and Lamont, to name but three.

Graham Taylor hung on grimly, but six days of extra time proved too much for the England manager. "Some of his critics are on the pitch. They think it's all over. Hughes, Miller, Hughes. It is now." And over it is. But the good

news is that there may yet be life for Taylor after World Cup elimination. The Wycombe and South Bucks Star League has a problem. Many of its sides are winning by so big a margin that the losing teams are getting demoralised. An edict has gone out from the league's organisers: "Score fewer goals." Taylor is on his way.

Quite whether there is life after the environment department for John Gummer remains to be seen. But his accident-prone reputation cannot have been enhanced by managing to launch his *London — Making the Best Better* initiative less than 24 hours before the Tube network largely ground to a halt — and London with it. Commuters are now hoping that Gummer's first initiative will be to remove the 50-year rule that covers power cables.

In 50 years time Norman Lamont is in danger of still being remembered as the politician who regretted rien. Which might be why this week he admitted to one. No, not the Pif, but not reforming the capital gains tax system. Capital gains? No I can't remember what they are either. Must be a state secret.



MEMOS FROM "C"

Churchillian history gains from open government

The release yesterday of 1,300 top secret intelligence reports drawn up in 1941 and 1942 is potentially one of the most exciting developments in Churchillian scholarship for many years. Though the files will disappoint those who hoped for vindication of crass conspiracy theories, they provide a unique insight into the most private information reaching Churchill at a crucial stage of the second world war. Sifting through the thousands of pages of decoded material, historians may come a little closer to understanding what secrets drove the war leader to act as he did.

The new documents have been transferred to the Public Record Office as part of the open government initiative and are an ornament to that new policy. Annotated by Churchill in red ink, they are the highly confidential reports known in Whitehall as "Ultra" which the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS) sent him almost daily. This was the glorious spring of British intelligence, when the world's best code-breakers were to be found at Bletchley Park in an eccentric community of intellectuals resembling an Oxford common room more than a military establishment. British intelligence has resisted efforts to declassify this archive for nearly half a century. But now disclosure has begun and it is possible to read these briefings and the scrawled instructions in their margins from Churchill to Sir Stuart Menzies, known as "C".

Of the evidence that has already emerged from the archive, the most unsettling item is an intercepted German SS report from July 1942 requesting 80 British prisoners of war to be used as foremen at Auschwitz. Other SS reports passed to Churchill revealed that 8,000 people had died in one month alone at the concentration camp. This disclosure will certainly reopen the painful debate about Allied knowledge of the Final Solution.

Although it is generally believed that news of the gas chambers did not reach London until July 1944, the new documents suggest that Churchill knew a fair amount about the concentration camps much earlier in the war. Arguably, he should have had their

supply lines bombed immediately and over-ridden the War Office claim that it was in British interests to have German resources diverted to the east of Europe. Nonetheless, it would be rash to assume that the prime minister was aware in July 1942 of the camps' ghastly purpose, which is not mentioned in the German reports released yesterday. At this early stage, he may have attributed the high death rate at Auschwitz to the typhus epidemic sweeping the camp.

These files will also enrich historical arguments about the significance of the second world war in the unfolding of the twentieth century. Earlier this year, John Charmley's revisionist biography of Churchill sparked a fierce controversy by claiming that war might have been avoided, that peace could have been achieved much earlier than 1945 and that Churchill's obsession with Hitler ultimately cost Britain its social order and empire. This thesis is certainly not to be accepted uncritically. But the debate did have the healthy effect of demythologising Churchill and forcing considered reflection of his role in the war.

On the opposite page, Dr Charmley argues that the new intelligence files reveal the surprising fragility of both alliances in the war. Some may conclude from this that Churchill did not sufficiently exploit the tensions in the Axis pact — often explicit in these intelligence briefings — to pursue an early peace. Yet peace at what cost? The value of these reports is not that they discredit Churchill but that they humanise the decisions which political elites around the world were taking at a time of great pressure. The information which emerged varied from high level analysis to pure gossip, such as the claim made by a Spanish ambassador that Britain was preparing a monarchist coup in Russia and the scornful remarks of the Japanese ambassador to Rome about the Latin inclination to grumble. History is made of tiny details as well as grandiose myth. Our knowledge of this turbulent time in human history can only be enhanced by this new access to the secret reading of the Lion of Chartwell.

FOGGY DAYS IN TOWN

Major has much to gain from the general confusion

Over the past few days a fog has hung as thickly over British politics as over its shopping malls and motorways. The latest MORI poll shows that the prime minister has become slightly more unpopular, that voters are unconvinced by the economic recovery and that the government has nothing much to show yet from its carefully constructed campaign of unity since the Party conference. The dominant message from the numbers is that there is no dominant message.

The same grey data emerged from the elections to the executive of the Conservatives' 1922 committee. After weeks of plotting and scurrying, in which all opponents of Maastricht were threatened with defeat, the result was a simple replacement of one maverick of the right, Sir George Gardiner, with another, David Evans.

This switch is said to be important because Sir George had been given the "disloyalty" label to be tied around his scapegoat's neck. Mr Evans, on the other hand, though hardly less vocal in his various oppositions to the government, is claimed to be "loyal" to the prime minister. Today's fog of words is perhaps thickest at this point: loyalty to person or principle, which is the higher? Mr Evans's own attempts at clarification, on the BBC *Today* programme yesterday morning, did not impress: a penguin at a word-processor would have carried greater conviction.

Westminster's atmosphere is soupy — and getting souper. This is not, however,

necessarily to the prime minister's disadvantage. True, he has been more unpopular for more time than any prime minister since records began. True, it does not seem at all certain that his own ratings will rise in line with the economic optimism of voters. On the other hand, fewer forces are seriously conspiring against him. His opponents are wandering about like the pedestrians after last week's London Underground failures. "Back to basics" has a basic appeal to party activists, even if it is mocked by the media. His parliamentary party has decided against rocking its own boat; no matter how unpopular the budget, how bad the local and European election results, it may not have the heart to rock Mr Major's.

If the great minds of 10 Downing Street have decided that this is as low as it gets, there is no political reason for not promoting all the bad news for voters at once. In next week's budget Kenneth Clarke may try to do just that. Peter Lilley's frankness about the need for welfare reform, reinforced again yesterday, is also aimed at attracting the worst opprobrium at the earliest time. The expected volume of announcements, threats and promises is unprecedented. Ministers are left worrying how they can make their own particular policies known among the confusion of tax-changes, spending plans and prophecies. There is little scope for plotting here either. The fog has settled. It may be many days after the Chancellor has sat down on Tuesday before it even begins to lift.

LOOK BEHIND YOU

I say, I say, I say; a panto encyclopaedia is being published

The Playhouse, Anytown, in the United Kingdom in December. Lights down; music, heavy on the trombones and timpani; curtain up on fairytale of glitter and paint; stage snow flutters. Enter a chorus line of pretty girls, male dancers dressed as sub-Alpine yokels, children from the Anytown school of dance and deportment, and Widow Twankey in tutu and balloons. Widow sings: This is really not my scene. Know what I mean, know what I mean? I like fings bener in the ring. My trainer always calls me Laundry. 'Cos I hang on the ropes for all and sundry. Meantersay, behold, well, you know, Beneath this frock, I'm Frank Bruno. Chorus: Oh, no you aren't. Who's a pretty boy then? Your goose has laid two golden double-joked eggs underneath your jumper. Widow: Oh, yes I am. I had quite a good record in the ring. I fought a hundred fights and won all but ninety-nine of them. Boo-boo. Or if I'm not, I'm Ian Botham. Don't confuse me with "Bottom"; not even Shakespeare's. I play the Ugly Sisters, both of 'em. Principal boy (a local actress who once appeared in *Coronation Street*) slaps impressive thigh and declaims: Dear Widow Twankey, do you realise that we have at last been accepted as a legitimate part of British theatre, combining corny fairy tales with celebrities of the hour? Now we are having a whole encyclopaedia published about us and our unique English art form.

Fairy Godmother, coiffed as Mrs Thatcher: No, no, no. Why do these Eurotheatians not appreciate pantomime? Why do they call it coarse, and not at all funny, and the last citadel of smutty jokes and belly-laughs about mother-in-laws and rampant lust? *Aladdin* (Paddy Ashdown): Because they simply do not understand the British character. Panto represents all that is special about our old country: terrible puns, blue jokes, xenophobia, soppy sentimentality and John Bullish political incorrectitude. *Dandini* (Betty Boothroyd): Yes, panto is as peculiarly English as the motos in crackers, chilled lager, and old maids cycling to communion through the morning mist. Enter pedalling through their manifestos, *Brother's Men* (John Major and John Smith): Why call PM's question time A pantomime, a pantomime? Because when we feel like a rant-o, Sound-bites, stage rage, allegro tango, Sloganising in politico-portmanteau. We might as well be in the panto. *Aladdin*: That chorus girl! I never gave her a second thought. I was too busy with the first. *Buttons*: Shall I put it on your bill? *Mother Goose*: Certainly not. What do you think I am? A pervert? A screen with words descends from the roof, and *Widow Twankey* leads the audience: The stately dames of England How campy they all stand, To prove the panto classes Will last until they're barned.

Terms for start of Sinn Fein talks

From Dr Edgar Anstey

Sir, John Major has rightly given top priority to trying to achieve a solution to the problem of Northern Ireland. He should be commended for his courage in making the concession that Sinn Fein could have a place at the conference table if they forswore the use of violence (report, November 19).

But for Sinn Fein to forswear violence is a concession which they are most unlikely to make unless some additional concession is offered by the British government.

One possibility for a future form of government is a joint Federal Council of Ireland, with separate parliaments in Belfast and in Dublin. Alternatively, the province could remain part of the UK, or become independent, or be subject to some kind of condominium by Great Britain and the Irish Republic.

Whichever of these possibilities were decided upon, there would be no need for British troops to remain in Northern Ireland, and the firm promise of future withdrawal, conditional upon all the terms being met, could be made to Sinn Fein now, as the further concession enabling negotiations to commence.

Yours etc,

EDGAR ANSTEY,

Sandrock, 3 Higher Tristram,

Polzeath, Cornwall,

November 22.

From Lord Tebbit, CH

Sir, In his article, "Ireland needs this initiative" (November 24), George Brock appears to misunderstand my views on the government's initiatives in Northern Ireland.

My view is that any concession sufficient to cause the IRA to end its campaign for the surrender of that province to the sovereignty of the Republic of Ireland would be a concession which would cause those who support the wishes of the majority to remain within the United Kingdom to take up arms.

Mr Brock appears to regard Northern Ireland as though it was a colonial territory and the IRA as though it was a liberation movement whose aspirations had majority support.

In such a case peace is easily achieved by granting self-determination. In the case of Ulster, however, the people already have self-determination and the armed struggle is an attempt to take it away from them.

Talk of constitutional change leading to peace is therefore more likely to lead to instability and more violence, as we have already seen.

Yours faithfully,

TEBBIT,

House of Lords,

November 24.

From Dr F. R. Himsforth

Sir, The Irish prime minister, Mr Albert Reynolds, assures us (report, November 20) that the British and Irish governments are travelling on parallel tracks. But, considering that parallel tracks never meet, is this a good thing?

Yours sincerely,

F. R. HIMSFWORTH,

2 Kirk Gate,

Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire,

November 22.

Cost of water

From Mr Geoffrey Martin

Sir, Your report, "New Euro water laws will add £500 to bills" (November 23), was an unnecessary distraction. The relevant piece of EC legislation, the urban waste water directive, is but one element of a series of Community-wide initiatives to improve the quality of our environment.

The European Commission can hardly be blamed, as your headline implies, for the fact that the British government has underestimated the costs of implementing this particular scheme. Furthermore, the assertion by British officials that Brussels had added clauses after the directive was voted on in the Council of Ministers is quite untrue.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGEY MARTIN

(Head of UK offices),

Commission of the

European Communities,

8 Storey's Gate, SW1,

November 23.

Opera at Dartmoor

From Mr Alistair Campbell

Sir, It was with some disappointment that I read Bernard Levin's article of November 16, "And your bird can sing".

There is a serious side to Glyndebourne Touring Opera's recent project in HMP Dartmoor. Outside the prison (where last month we devised from scratch, with inmates, a beautiful, original and moving piece — not the lame and tired spoof from the 1950s which Levin offers) is a statement to the effect that the establishment aims to rehabilitate prisoners in a humane manner so that they might in time rejoin society. It was in this spirit that we approached the project.

Yours faithfully,

ALISTAIR CAMPBELL

(Director, Glyndebourne HMP

Dartmoor project),

47 Crowndale Court,

Crowndale Road, NW1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

A prince in reality and on screen

From Professor Stephen Haseler

Sir, In his defence of the Prince of Wales ("Appalling view of a prince", November 23), Walter Ellis threatened us with a return to censorship, unless we "pay heed to at least some past values". On the same day you reported that "it has been disclosed" that Charles is "frustrated" by the lack of support he receives from the government (the taxpayer) for his royal trade missions.

The Prince of Wales is a public figure. He benefits enormously from this public position. Much of his wealth derives from his role in the royal family, and he uses the platform of royalty to address the public on a range of issues he finds important. Moreover, he assumes his role purely voluntarily — no one forcibly drags Charles Windsor from his castle to perform his duties — and he is free at any time to resign.

Few complaints emanated from the Palace (or from the Palace's friends) when, in the old days, the media was full of syrup about monarchy or when Charles's marriage to Diana was described as "the love match of the century" by a popular newspaper now held in disfavour by the royals.

A free country may treat public figures somewhat robustly, but that is the price, well worth paying, for putting them in their place — as servants, not masters, of the people. Much of the sensitivity emanating from the Prince's circle is no doubt a product of his sense of increasing irrelevance. There is little doubt that he has lost a role and not yet found a way of life.

Unfortunately, Charles seems to have fixed upon royal visits as a suitable role to keep him busy. Yet, these visits are no substitute for a real job. They may help a small bit in areas such as the Gulf and Arabia, where royalty is still held in some awe; but in our major markets a visit by British royalty serves only to project an image of Britain as a feudal society and inefficient economy.

Yours faithfully,

STEPHEN HASELER

(Chairman, Republic),

2 Thackeray House,

Ansfield Street, W3,

November 23.

From Mrs Vera Ryder

Sir, I am sorry Walter Ellis got his Y-fronts in such a twist over the BBC serial *To Play the King*, which for me is much nearer to "adult viewing" than many a programme so described.

If the royal family can be cruelly lampooned in *Spitting Image*, what is wrong with depicting a royal family as human beings? Here we have a superb script and some superb performances, and we don't know yet if the

appalling Urquhart will get his come-uppance. If he doesn't, it will be a reflection on those who appoint and support him, not on those who attempt to oppose him.

During the first episode Mr Ellis could have switched over to a programme on the Kennedy assassination, but perhaps he prefers to let his blood boil rather than curdle.

Yours faithfully,

VERA RYDER,

Dorset Cottage, High Street,

Sonning, Berkshire,

November 23.

From Mrs Ruth Soetendorp

Sir, "As a matter of law, I have no rights, as the author of the book, to interfere with the BBC's adaptation," writes Michael Dobbs (letter, November 23).

On assigning copyright to the BBC, the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, s.80 (2), allows Mr Dobbs to assert his moral right to object to treatment that amounts to distortion or mutilation of his work, or is otherwise prejudicial to his honour or reputation as the author.

Adaptors of creative work, such as the BBC, might request contributors to waive their moral rights. Such requests should be resisted.

Yours faithfully,

RUTH SOETENDORP

(Course leader),

Department of Finance and Law,

Bournemouth University,

Dorset House, Talbot Campus,

Fern Barrow, Poole, Dorset,

November 25.

From Miss Erika Hoffman

Sir, John Miller (letter, November 25) fails to recognise that the character which he assumes to portray the Princess of Wales is in fact intended to represent a different member of the "royal family". I am the actress who portrays the king's ex-wife and, as such, I was only fleetingly in the first episode.

Yours faithfully,

ERIKA HOFFMAN,

c/o Susan Angel Associates,

12 D'Arbury Street, W1,

November 26.

From Mr Roy Durant

Sir, "I wasn't to blame, Guv'nor. I luv the Prince, gawd bless 'im, I wrote and said so." Perhaps Mr Michael Dobbs and Mr Ian Richardson (letters, November 25) should in future think more seriously about how their words and actions are portrayed.

Yours faithfully,

ROY DURANT,

Meadowsweet Cottage,

Hyde Lane, Danbury, Essex.

From Mr Peter McCloskey

Sir, My two girls, Hanna and Roann, attend the local infants' and junior school where the children come from many backgrounds and traditions. The pupils and parents take part in celebrating Ramadan, Diwali, the Chinese new year, Christmas, etc.

Children are not confused, as Alan Chance proposes (letter, November 24), but enriched by different ways of worshipping God.

Yours sincerely,

P. MCCLOSKEY,

17 Elms Lane,

Sudbury Town, Middlesex,

November 24.

From Mr L. H. Proddgers

Sir, It worries me somewhat that I am no longer surprised to read reports about playgrounds cancelling Christmas.

Yours faithfully,

LIONEL H. PRODDGERS,

10 Giles Copple,

Dulwich Wood Park, SE19,

November 23.

Care of the countryside

From Mr Julian Cummins

Sir, Many farmers, at least in North Yorkshire, will agree with Simon Jenkins that their role as keepers of the countryside should be recognised and paid for ("Where cash is the main crop", November 13; letters, November 20, 23).

The question of the rural environment formed part of a survey we carried out this year among the 1,000 or so family farms which are typical of the area — small mixed farms, as opposed to the large arable ones which attract the biggest subsidies.

Respondents, especially in the hills and the national park, insisted that looking after the countryside was a lively tradition, which they were determined to maintain. "A good strong healthy agriculture makes for the best scenic effect," wrote one. "The whole area of Ryedale has been created by past generations of farming families who have cared for the countryside," said another. But the public does not always understand that the English landscape is not a natural phenomenon or endowment. Those who created and maintain it deserve recognition and reward.

Yours faithfully,

JULIAN CUMMINS

(Chair, Yorkshire Liberal Democrats),

28 Outwood Lane, Horforth,

Leeds, West Yorkshire.

From Mr Oliver Walston

Sir, Sir Julian Rose (letter, November 20) states that the Ministry of Agri-

culture "refuses to provide any financial help to existing organic farmers". Your readers might, as a result, get the erroneous impression that organic farmers receive no subsidies. In fact, they receive precisely the same level of financial assistance that is given to conventional farmers. Neither more nor less.

Sir Julian is somewhat misleading when he refers to my "monocultural prairies". The image which he seeks to convey is one of a heartless hedgehog concerned only with profit at the expense of landscape. South Cambridgeshire chalkland has, of course, been hedgeless heathland for centuries. The fact that we grow a varied rotation of crops makes this charge that we are monocultural equally hard to substantiate.

On the brighter side, I am glad that Sir Julian is one of the rare farmers who seem to think that total open access to the public will not result in what the president of the National Farmers Union has recently predicted as "abuse of the countryside by irresponsible elements".

Yours faithfully,

OLIVER WALSTON,

Thriplow Farm, Thriplow,

Royston, Hertfordshire,

November 22.

Weekend Money letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Feathers fly in the animals' court

From Mr W. E. Balmer

Sir, David Pannick's examination of the possible appearance of a parrot as a court witness, "Will parrots squawk before the beak?" (Law, November 23), reminds me of an unreported case in the 1950s at Kingston magistrates' court in Surrey when I was the advocate for a mynah bird. It kept the neighbours awake not so much by the noise it made as by its unconvenant silences.

The bird's song (oft repeated) was the once well-known "All the nice girls love a sailor, all the nice girls love a sailor". The end of the second line remained a mystery, to the unimagined fury of the good people of Esher. I am ashamed to admit that the humoursless JPs upheld the by-law, found the bird to be a nuisance and fined its owner 40 shillings.

Yours faithfully,

W. E. BALMER,

Balmer & Son (solicitors),

20 Hershaw Road,

Walton-on-Thames, Surrey,

November 24.

From His Honour Judge Aron Owen

Sir, Many years ago at Westminster County Court His Honour Judge Basil Blagden entered accompanied by his large dog, which sat on a seat next to him on the bench.

Judge Blagden immediately addressed the astounded counsel appearing before him:

I have read the pleadings in this case and I see it is all about a motor vehicle colliding with a lamp-post. I have brought my Assessor with me.

Yours faithfully,

ARON OWEN,

44 Brampton Grove, Hendon, NW4.

From Mr William Crowther, QC

Sir, David Pannick's article on testimony from birds and animals reminds me of a case in which I was involved many years ago when I was instructed to defend a young man charged with stealing racing pigeons. His defence was that the birds were feral pigeons, which he had caught in a park. The birds were in court as "Exhibit 1", cooing to themselves in a basket.

The alleged owner gave evidence identifying the birds as his property. I cross-examined on the basis that no one could tell one pigeon from another. Eventually, provoked beyond endurance, the alleged owner said: "If you don't believe those birds are mine, let them free and see where they go."

The judge ordered the birds' primary feathers to be stamped with the court's date stamp, the court adjourned to the car park and the birds were freed.

I had a moment of hope as they circled aimlessly two or three times, but they were only getting their bearings. They then sped in the direction of the owner's pigeon loft and arrived there within minutes. Verdict: guilty.

Yours sincerely,

WILLIAM CROWTHER,

2 Temple Gardens, EC4,

November 23.

From Mr Michael Patchett-Joyce

OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL JAMES MOULTON

Major-General James Moulton, CB, DSO, OBE, Chief of Amphibious Warfare, 1957-61, died on November 22 aged 87. He was born on June 3, 1906.

AS COMMANDER of 48 Royal Marine Commando, James Moulton had a distinguished war, leading his unit through some of the toughest fighting of the northwest Europe campaign. But his country's greatest debt to him lies in the innovations he effected during his time as Chief of Amphibious Warfare. He arrived in this post at a time when the ships of the Amphibious Warfare Squadron were desperately in need of replacement if Britain was to retain the capability to mount military expeditions overseas. He realised that the Navy needed purpose-built ships, able to transport troops, tanks and other vehicles long distances at speed, and to get them ashore.

Yet in Whitehall there was a strong case of opposition to such a notion. The lessons of Suez — in which the seaborne assault force had taken seven days to reach Port Said from Malta — had not been digested. There were many at the top who could not conceive that Britain would ever again be required to land armoured forces on distant beaches in the teeth of armed opposition. Moulton persisted, and by arguing his proposals skilfully — directly to the individual vice-chiefs of staff — eventually got his way. The result was the building of the Royal Navy's first large assault ship, *Fearless* (to be followed by a sister ship *Intrepid*) and the smaller *Lancelot*, the first of a class of logistic landing ships. These vessels proved their worth during the Falklands campaign, carrying a substantial proportion of the land forces and vehicles to the South Atlantic and providing a springboard for the assault. Without them the operation would have been inconceivable. Certainly, it would have been incomparably more hazardous. Thus, although he had retired twenty years before it took place, Moulton deserves to be regarded as one of the farseeing



architects of the Falklands victory. James Louis Moulton was educated at Sutton Valence School, commissioned into the Royal Marines in 1924 and served from 1927 in the battleship *Rodney*. He saw little opportunity for the exercise of initiative in big ships and, when appointed to HMS *Revenge*, he applied to join the Fleet Air Arm. Gaining his wings, he spent the next five years in torpedo bomber and fleet spotter squadrons in the Mediterranean and the Far East. When the aircraft carrier *Enterprise* returned home for a refit in 1935, Moulton's squadron was left ashore in Malta. He thought this would affect his promotion prospects and

Commandos were formed from the infantry battalions of the Royal Marine Division. Moulton did not get a command. He was disappointed. But when it was decided that the invasion of Europe would require one more Commando. No 48, he was appointed to lead it.

In a short time he worked it up to a superb state of battle readiness. This paid off when, on D-Day, No 48 found itself approaching Juno beach in anything but ideal conditions. Heavy surf, underwater obstacles and relentless machinegun fire from onshore threatened to turn the landing into a disaster. But, realising that nothing in amphibious operations can be taken for granted, Moulton had taken the precaution of having light rafts installed in his landing craft. These now poured a rain of smoke bombs on to the beaches, blinding the enemy's gunners. This enabled 48 Commando to scramble ashore and, although casualties were still high, Moulton's steady influence enabled the survivors to get off the beach and regroup behind the dunes in good heart. By the end of the second day ashore they had seized all their intended objectives.

Awarded the DSO for his part in the landings, Moulton led his commando from the Normandy beach-head to the crossing of the Belgian frontier in late autumn of 1944.

A further series of fortitude and leadership awaited him in November at Walcheren. This was the heavily defended Dutch island at the mouth of the River Scheldt whose continued occupation by the Germans nullified the Allied capture of the potentially invaluable supply port of Antwerp. Attacking in bitter weather on that bleak coast, 48 Commando went ashore to the south of Westkapelle at the island's westernmost extremity. The defending garrison numbered 10,000 men, supported by batteries of artillery embedded in concrete. Wire, anti-tank ditches and obstacles of all kinds abounded, making this "gateway" to Antwerp one of the most heavily fortified places in occupied Europe. Enemy resistance was fierce,

with many units fighting almost to the last man. Advancing along the coast from Westkapelle, 48 Commando took Zouteleinde, while 47 Commando entered Flushing. With other Marine and Army units attacking from the east, Walcheren finally surrendered after ten days of tough fighting. After the battle Moulton was put in charge of 4 Commando Brigade which he commanded until the end of the war.

Among his postwar appointments was a spell on the staff of the Commandant General Royal Marines. In a period of severe government cuts this gave Moulton invaluable experience of life in the Whitehall bureaucratic jungle, which was to stand him in good stead. From May 1952 he was in command of 3 Commando Brigade in the Mediterranean. Here, in joint exercises with the Amphibious Warfare Squadron and its wartime vintage landing craft, he was in a good position to assess its pitiful inability to wage long-range operations under modern conditions. Looking around him, he was quick to see what strides the US Marine Corps was making in the use of ship-borne helicopters. All these factors informed his vision when he later became Chief of Amphibious Warfare and contributed to making his tenure of the post such a decisive one.

Moulton retired in 1961, but continued to be influential in defence matters as both editor and writer. He was successively naval editor, 1964-69, and editor, 1969-73, of *Brassey's Annual*, and wrote a number of books. Among them were *Haste to the Battle* (1963), the story of 48 Commando; *Defence in a Changing World* (1964); and *The Norwegian Campaign of 1940* (1966). *British Maritime Strategy in the 1970s*, published for the Royal United Service Institution (1969), was a critique of what Moulton saw as Britain's failure to exercise its traditional naval role in the European theatre. His history, *The Royal Marines* (1972), appeared in a revised and expanded edition in 1981. He leaves his widow Barbara, a son and a daughter.

JAMES STERN

James Stern, man of letters, died on November 22 aged 68. He was born in Ireland on December 24, 1904.



THE fog to which W. H. Auden expressed gratitude in the title-poem of his final collection — *Thank You, Fog* (1974) — was that which had enveloped James and Tania Stern's country home where the poet spent his last Christmas. While the finest of Stern's short stories may continue to be anthologised — a fresh selection, with an introduction by William Boyd, awaits a publisher — it is probably for his rare talents for friendship and correspondence that he will be best remembered. He was a beguiling raconteur, a rewardingly curious listener and a marvelous letter-writer.

James Andrew Stern was the eldest child of an English army officer of Continental Jewish stock and of an elegant, hard-riding Irish mother. From County Meath he was sent to Eton and Sandhurst, to farm in Southern Rhodesia and to work in the family's bank in Frankfurt (where he was a barman at night), before a chance encounter with Alan Pryor-Jones secured him a job with J. C. Squire on *The London Mercury*, and fixed him in the literary world.

The Heartless Land, a first collection of short stories drawing upon his African experience, appeared in 1932 and showed an assured eye for landscape, vigorous language and a sympathy with outsiders. A second collection, *Something Wrong* (1938), treated mostly with the terrors and confusions of childhood, and was dedicated to Brian Howard. *The Man Who Loved* (1952) drew from two previous volumes and added five more stories; its title came to be almost synonymous with its author.

In 1935 Stern married Constance Kurella, daughter of an intellectual Berlin doctor and perhaps, like himself, something of a refugee. Tanjiam, as many friends knew the couple, lived in Paris where she taught a system of remedial exercise, with a sojourn in Portugal sharing a house with Christopher Isher-

wood and his boyfriend Heinz in 1936. They moved to New York in 1939. Here she established a new studio and he found new feet as a critic, writing lead reviews for *The New York Times Book Review*.

He particularly promoted the Anglo-Irish Joyce Cary, while his championship of Patrick White led to an important correspondence and to mutually enjoyed "disagreements on railway platforms". He also undertook numerous translations from the German, and his wife collaborated in versions of texts by Kafka, Brecht, Hofmannsthal, Mann and Freud, whose family she had known in childhood.

In 1945 Stern revisited Germany as an interviewer for the US Strategic Bombing Survey. His account of this journey, *The Hidden Damage* (1947), is by far his most substantial and perhaps his most successful work: a blend of carefully observed reportage and elegiac reminiscence, it incidentally includes some hilarious glimpses of Auden, transparently disguised as "Mervyn," who was a member of the same team. Having got "lost" in Roger Schonhouse's office at Secker & Warburg, it

was not published in this country until 1990, furnished with a new introduction by Stephen Spender. The Sterns returned to England in 1957, finally settling in an exquisite small stone manor-house in Wiltshire. From there he produced sporadic autobiographical snippets for *The London Magazine* and *The Irish Times*, and dealt conscientiously and courteously with the "brain-pickers" who beat a relentless path to his door. Few, alas, troubled to consider what was so special about Stern himself that he had inspired the devotion of Auden and White, of Samuel Beckett, Diana Barones, Malcolm Lowry, Harold Acton, William Plomer, of Lewis Mumford, Kay Boyle, Alexander Calder, Walker Evans, and countless others. Stern had the spare, wiry build of the steeplechase jockey he had almost become and in later years, his small head bearded and bespectacled, he came to bear some resemblance to James Joyce, whom, almost inevitably, he had met in Paris. In his pale eyes there were combined both a knowing twinkle and a lasting childlike wonder. He is survived by his wife.

EMMA McCUNE

Emma McCune, British aid worker, died in a car accident in Nairobi, Kenya, on November 24 aged 29. She was born in India on February 3, 1964.

EMMA McCune was a middle-class English aid worker from Bradford who married a senior commander of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), one of the most active guerrilla leaders in the area. Her home for the last two

years was among kalashnikov-carrying soldiers in a compound of mud huts, deep in the swampy outback of Southern Sudan, and reached only by a four-hour flight from Nairobi and a 15-minute boat ride along one of the tributaries of the Nile. A six foot tall, convent-educated girl with a degree in the history of art, Emma McCune worked for several years in war-torn Sudan before meeting the charismatic, English-educated Riek

Machar. They immediately found common ground in their fears for the local population of children, in a country where 50,000 youngsters, often only seven years old, have been taken from their families and put in special "schools" for military training. In marrying Machar, she went further than any expatriate had ever gone towards being accepted into Southern Sudanese society, though she objected to the idea that she had "gone native". Instead,

being Machar's wife gave her unique responsibilities. The "hawaja Dinka" — or foreign Dinka as she was affectionately known — was treated by the soldiers not as a woman, but an honorary man. They knew I am educated," she said, "they know that I can help them. And I can play a mediation role because I am not affiliated to one tribe." Emma Alison Lewis McCune was the eldest of five children born to a tea planter in India. She was educated at

the Convent of the Assumption in Richmond, North Yorkshire, and studied art history at Oxford Polytechnic. After graduating she took off with a friend on a year's trip across the globe to Australia in a single-engine aircraft. On her return to Oxford, she worked for the Refugee Study Group and was moved by the plight of the Southern Sudanese, a largely Christian population dominated by Arab and fiercely Islamic northerners. She went out to Khartoum for six months before starting an MA in East African history and politics at London University. Finally she arrived in Southern Sudan in 1988, with the intention of writing her dissertation.

Instead, she was offered a job with Street Kids International, a Canadian based organisation, and began to co-ordinate a schooling programme for war-displaced children. Local teachers were eager to become involved in the project, even though they were often unpaid, and classes had to be held informally under trees. Emma McCune never complained about the living conditions, and her resourcefulness was exemplary. She knew her way around the engine of "Brutus" — her Toyota Landcruiser, how to engineer a landing strip for C-130 Hercules aircraft and how to run a laptop computer on solar power. Her work bought her into contact with the SPLA and with Riek Machar, one of its senior commanders. They were finally married in the



summer of 1991, Emma becoming his second wife (his first Sudanese wife lives with their two children in England).

Conditions at Machar's two-room mud hut near the devastated town of Nasir were primitive — to the extreme. There was no running water, no bathroom, and everything had to be cooked over wood fires. Bats hung from the ceiling and their diet mainly consisted of fried Nile perch and sour bread. McCune was bitten by rats and scorpions and endured amoebic dysentery. Her one concession to comfort was the light provided by a solar panel, but even this had its problems, attracting thousands of mos-

quitoes, moths, crickets, and the inevitable frogs which fed on them. And yet to the occasional foreign journalist who ventured to interview her, she seemed serenely happy and content, missing none of her creature comforts.

The biggest danger to her existence was the war, particularly after her husband and two other commanders broke with John Garang, the SPLA's autocratic leader. Emma found herself caught in the middle of a propaganda battle, with the Garang faction accusing her of acting as a British spy and of encouraging her husband's disloyalty. Earlier this year she narrowly escaped an ambush by rival rebels in the town of Kongor.

There are some people out there who would gladly put a bullet through my head," she said. Her employers, Street Kids International, felt last year that they had no option but to sack her in order to safeguard the success of their project. Emma, who was five months pregnant with their first child when her car was involved with a head-on collision with a minibus, had planned to stay in the relative safety of Nairobi for the duration of her pregnancy. She was known there as an outspoken advocate for her husband's cause. Riek Machar, who carries on the armed struggle, survives her.

BRITISH BATTLESHIP SUNK

THE BULWARK BLOWN UP AT SHEERNESS OVER 700 LIVES LOST

At present it is very difficult from the meagre information available to piece together the story of the loss of the Bulwark. There are few, if any, survivors who were actually in the vessel when the explosion occurred, and the whole thing took place so rapidly that it is largely a matter of conjecture as to what happened in those two or three fateful moments which reduced the Bulwark from a useful warship of 15,000 tons to a battered hulk and the death trap of more than 700 men. Residents of Sheerness agree that in its violence and horror the explosion was unique. When at a few minutes to 8 o'clock the roaring, rumbling sound was heard by almost everybody on the Isle of Sheppey, and by many of the residents of the mainland, the first assumption was that a Zeppelin had become an accomplished fact, and that the first bombs had been dropped on English soil. But there was no reply from the defences, and

ON THIS DAY

November 27 1914

An inquiry into the explosion in which only 12 survived from the ship's complement of 780, failed to find a reason for it. War-time censorship may have been in its early stages to have permitted the news to be reported on the following day. The ominous silence which followed, with the cloud of dense smoke which hung over the river for some minutes, prepared people for something much worse. In Sheerness itself the loss of the Bulwark was soon known, but at 4 o'clock this afternoon I found people at Lower Rainham, within a short distance, who had heard the explosion, but did not know the reason. Very few people on land seem to have witnessed the actual blowing-up of the ship, but a carrier at Halsowes says that he heard the report, and looking towards the river saw the Bulwark suddenly become enveloped in flames.

<p>THEATRES</p> <p>FORTUNE BO & CO 025 2238 000 344 4444 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977</p> <p>THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Maltby OF HORROR! 5 Times Even 7pm Mon-Tue 3pm Sat Sun New Lockingmill Theatre 34</p> <p>GARRICK THEATRE 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977</p> <p>STEVEN BARKOFF ONE MAN "Grippingly funny...a real laugh-out-loud" "A real laugh-out-loud" "A real laugh-out-loud" "A real laugh-out-loud"</p> <p>GLOBE 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977</p> <p>GABRIELLE 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977</p> <p>PRESENT LAUGHTER "A real laugh-out-loud" "A real laugh-out-loud" "A real laugh-out-loud" "A real laugh-out-loud"</p> <p>HAYMARKET THEATRE 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977</p> <p>THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA "An undiscovered hit" "An undiscovered hit" "An undiscovered hit" "An undiscovered hit"</p> <p>HER MAJESTY'S 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977</p> <p>THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by Harold Prince Now Booking for 12 Dec 1994 Apply daily for returns</p> <p>LYRIC 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977</p> <p>FIVE GUYS THE OLIVER ARNOLD WINNING MUSICAL 3RD GREAT YEAR Mon-Thurs 8pm Fri Sat 8pm 8.45</p>	<p>LOVE, PALLADIUM 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977</p> <p>JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT Directed by STEVEN MALTBY Even 7.30 Mon-Tue 5 Sat 2.30 QUEEN'S THEATRE FOR RETURNS This production runs until 15 Jan</p> <p>NATIONAL THEATRE 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977 0161 497 5977 (Preston) 0161 497 5977</p> <p>PIAF A musical play by PHILIP GIBBS Directed by PETER HALL Even 7.30 Mon-Tue 5 Sat 2.30 QUEEN'S THEATRE FOR RETURNS This production runs until 15 Jan</p> <p>JANE EYRE Adapted by Peter Hall Even 7.30 Mon-Tue 5 Sat 2.30 QUEEN'S THEATRE FOR RETURNS This production runs until 15 Jan</p> <p>ALL SEATS £10 Even 7.30 Mon-Tue 5 Sat 2.30 QUEEN'S THEATRE FOR RETURNS This production runs until 15 Jan</p> <p>CRASH FOR YOU "A real laugh-out-loud" "A real laugh-out-loud" "A real laugh-out-loud" "A real laugh-out-loud"</p> <p>ASPECTS OF LOVE FOR 50 YEARS ONLY FROM 20 DEC - 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PROFILE 23

NatWest's chiefs lead Britain's banking recovery



MELVYN MARCKUS 22

Unravelling the rumours that have dogged Ladbroke



SPORT 32-40

High noon for leader of the England pack

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES
Page 39

THE TIMES

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27 1993



Dan Wright, the chief executive, joins some of the workers at the Albion axle plant in Glasgow to celebrate yesterday's management buy-in

Albion axle deal saves 510 Leyland DAF jobs

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ADMINISTRATIVE receivers to the collapsed Leyland DAF truck company yesterday secured the future of the Albion axle plant in Glasgow and its sister component plant in Leyland, Lancashire, together with the jobs of their 510 employees.

The novel £12 million deal, involving a continuing stake held by the administrators, all but completes the most formidable industrial rescue since the failure of the Rolls-Royce group 20 years ago.

Every main British operation of the collapsed Anglo-Dutch commercial vehicle group is now trading under new ownership, and 2,700 jobs have been saved. But the Leyland lorry plant, the Birmingham van factory and the other operations now employ only half as many workers as they had when the group and its Dutch-based

Receivers to the crashed Anglo-Dutch truck maker Leyland DAF have put the seal on its financial rescue with a £12 million management buy-in to save 510 jobs

parent, DAF, passed into receivership on February 2.

Dan Wright, a Scottish engineer and former Leyland trucks executive, led a management buy-in at the new business, to be called Albion Automotive. Purchase of the axle plant in Scotland, Glasgow, employing 330 workers, has been grant aided by the Scottish Office, the Glasgow Development Agency and Strathclyde Regional Council.

The £30 million-a-year sales of the Albion business have been underpinned by long-term agreements to continue supply of axles and other components to the surviving Leyland DAF operations.

Workers at the plants have accepted a 5 per cent pay cut and new flexible working practices in order to secure

their jobs and help the business succeed. Mr Wright said the savings were needed to enable the businesses, which were previously run as satellite plants, to set up their own product development, marketing and financial operations.

"There is cost saving to do so we can afford the increased costs of a fully integrated business," he said.

Mr Wright and his team had earlier finished as runners-up in a race with managers at the Leyland DAF lorry plant to take over truck assembly and run it as a fully integrated component and assembly operation.

Instead, he and his team face the considerable challenge of developing replacement products and diversifying the business in the face of

competition from world-scale axle specialists such as Rockwell and Eaton.

First, however, they must bring to a successful outcome continuing talks to acquire a highly-sophisticated £12 million crankshaft machining operation, involving 800 machine tools. Although standing within the Leyland plant, the crankshaft operation, which provides parts for DAF Trucks, the Dutch heavy lorry maker, is owned by a leasing company. Completion of that deal should secure the jobs of 30 more workers. In addition to the 180 at Leyland covered by yesterday's deal.

The Albion managers' next task will be to reduce the excessive operating costs of the Scotland plant, a huge, 240,000 square foot building on a former shipyard site which once produced lorries in its own right.

However, Mr Wright was last night confident that by concentrating on niche markets, such as the axles Albion manufactures for British

Army vehicles, Albion can thrive in the long term.

His partners in the buy-in are Jim Hastie, who was operations director, components, for Leyland DAF, and Stephen Spencer, commercial manager at GEC Alsthom's European Gas Turbines business at Lincoln.

The receivers, John Talbot and Murdoch McKillop, of accountants Arthur Andersen, have pursued an unusually flexible approach to the rescue, selling each major business separately but tying them together with a web of supply contracts. In yesterday's deal they have retained a substantial stake in the Albion business, a tactic they previously used when participating in the rescue of Robert Maxwell's collapsed media empire.

Only two significant Leyland DAF operations remain to be sold: the railway engine reconditioning plant at St Helen's, Lancashire, with 30 workers, and the Leyland Technical centre in Leyland, with a similar number.

Volkswagen says audit report denies espionage

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

VOLKSWAGEN, Europe's biggest carmaker, has placed the blame squarely on its Spanish unit for the DM2 billion loss the group faces, but has sought to shrug off the industrial espionage scandal that has dogged it since it hired José Ignacio López de Arriortúa to head production and purchasing.

An external audit commissioned by VW in August, made public in summary yesterday, found "no indications that secret data from other automobile manufacturers had any influence" on decisions made at VW by Señor López.

Klaus Liesen, the VW supervisory board chairman, said there was no evidence that data from General Motors (GM), or its German subsidiary Opel, had given VW any competitive advantage. Señor López switched to VW from GM early in March.

GM alleges that the Spaniard stole secret documents when he moved to VW. The German prosecutor's office said that it wanted to see the auditor's report. The criminal investigation against Señor López will not, however, be halted.

Hopes that GM and VW might agree to end their bitter battle amicably appear to have faded. David Herman, the Opel chairman, was clearly furious about the audit report. He called it a "dishonourable cover-up manoeuvre". VW was "misleading the public" by leaking claims that Opel papers seized on VW premises were not secret, he said.

Mr Herman said the VW leadership was failing to act on evidence before it, covering up the facts and continuing to employ executives who had stolen documents from their former employer.

Señor López left GM for VW with several close associates, which provoked angry charges of undue poaching. Opel alleges that the Señor López team systematically looted proprietary documents and computer files.

Opel said enquiries by the public prosecutor, admissions by VW and research by KPMG had established that sworn statements by Señor López and his associates that

they had not taken with them or possessed GM group documents were untrue.

Herr Liesen told reporters that VW's lawyers would investigate the list of questions put by Opel. The rival carmaker wants to know whether a report by KPMG Deutsche Treuhand concerned Señor López's actions only and the extent to which his ex-GM team acted independently. It wants to know whether several versions of the report exist and whether the full version will be made available to the legal authorities.

The public prosecutor in Darmstadt said it did not expect to decide whether to indict Señor López for alleged industrial espionage until next spring at the earliest. The US authorities are also looking at the case.

VW made clear that it is still ready to sign an out-of-court settlement with Opel to end a dispute over executive poaching from the GM group.

Ferdinand Piëch, the management board chairman of VW, emerged on Thursday with a long-sought agreement with the metalworkers union to cut the working week at VW's German plants to four days, to save 30,000 jobs over two years. The deal, which is expected to reduce the company's labour costs by DM1.8 billion, was widely hailed as a model for much of German industry. But market praise Herr Piëch drew for the pay deal was countered when he said that the group expects to lose about DM2 billion this year, and foresees no marked improvement next year.

He said that Seat, the troubled Spanish carmaking subsidiary, was likely to make a loss in the order of DM2 billion this year, compared with forecasts of a DM1.5 billion loss. Other divisions are expected to break even.

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

WEEKEND MONEY

HOT GOSSIP

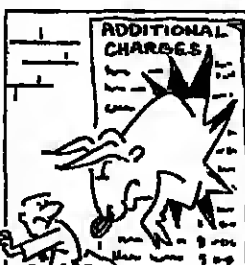


Shares normally rise after Budget day, statistics show. But the timing of Kenneth Clarke's first speech may distort the figures
Page 27

HOT PROPERTY

While experts argue about what will happen to mortgage rates, hapless home owners pray for solid evidence of recovery
Page 25

HOT PURSUIT



Escalating bank charges are still a problem, despite changes in disclosure rules, says the Banking Ombudsman
Page 28

HOT WATER

Household water bills could soar by up to £500 over the next five years unless the government helps fund clean-up costs.
Page 27

QMH investor issues petition

By PHILIP PANGALOS

DENIS Woodhams, a shareholder in Queens Moat Houses, has fired a shot across the stricken hotel group's bows by issuing a petition asking the High Court to declare that the company's affairs are being conducted in a manner unfairly prejudicial to shareholders.

The company faces a grilling from angry shareholders at Monday's annual meeting when investors are asked to adopt QMH's 1992 report and accounts. The accounts embrace the controversial property valuation of £861 million - vastly below a £2 billion valuation a year earlier and subsequent revaluation of £1.35 billion. Mr Woodhams is

also seeking an order to restrain the company from restructuring its shareholding prior to the full disclosure of accounts and valuations.

Michael Harkavy, advising Mr Woodhams on legal and strategic matters, said: "We say that shareholders cannot make any proper judgment without being fully aware of all the details of all the valuations that have been done. That information has not been made available. We have asked Mr Coppel [Queens Moat's chief executive] to disclose that information and he has refused, saying it is of a commercially sensitive nature."

Mr Coppel said in re-

sponse: "When proposals are put to shareholders in connection with the financial restructuring of the group, which is essential for its viability, there will be full disclosure in accordance with the rules and regulations of the London Stock Exchange, so that shareholders may consider such proposals on their merits."

Shareholders have been critical of the financial restructuring to convert bank debt into equity.

A disastrous sequence of events has seen shares in the group suspended in March, the departure of the entire board, a £1 billion loss announced for 1992 and the arrival of DTI inspectors.

Bundesbank warning after further fall in inflation

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE main measure of German inflation fell for the fourth month in a row, leaving more scope for further cuts in German interest rates, but an array of Bundesbank officials gave warning to the financial markets against over-enthusiasm. The Federal Statistics Office reported yesterday that the West German cost of living rose by 0.3 per cent in November, bringing the year on year inflation rate down to 3.7 per cent from October's 3.9 per cent and a July peak of 4.3 per cent. The figures encouraged those economists who believe the next official cuts in rates

will come at the Bundesbank's council meeting on December 16. Warnings by various Bundesbank chiefs about expecting faster rate cuts were seen as a ritualistic attempt to make markets uncertain, not as evidence of genuine caution on rates.

However, Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, warned in a speech yesterday that interest rates could only be cut as long as this did not jeopardise the mark. He added that inflation was still too high. Othmar Issing, a Bundesbank director, had said on Thursday that he expected

inflation to continue to decelerate, but at a much slower pace than the Bundesbank would like. Helmut Schiebel, a board member, said that the economy was moving in the right direction, but this would not prompt the Bundesbank to accelerate cuts.

The tone of these comments contrasted those of Johann-Wilhelm Gaddum, the Bundesbank's vice president. He said on Thursday he expected interest rates to continue falling, remarks which boosted European markets and undermined the mark.

The mark weakened against most European currencies yesterday. However, sterling slipped back as dealers took profits amid uncertainty about Tuesday's Budget. It lost more than a penny against the mark to close at DM2.5274. Its trade weighted index fell to £1.2 from the close of £1.7 on Thursday.

□ Mortgage lending by the larger British banks fell by £1.62 billion in October, 3.9 per cent lower than September's total. The decline was exaggerated by one bank securitising £300 million of its mortgages. However, the British Bankers' Association also reported that approvals for mortgage loans fell by more than 5 per cent to £1.45 billion from £1.53 billion.

"Choose your drink wisely.
After all,
you've got two ears and two eyes -
but only one mouth."

DR FRED LE FEVRE,
COSMETIC SURGEON, CALIFORNIA.



INTRODUCE SOME CALIFORNIAN INTO THE CONVERSATION.
E&J
SINGLE CASK MATURED BRANDY.

STOCK MARKET		THE POUND		GOLD	
	FT-SE 100 3111.4 +18.3		Dm 2.5274 -0.0138		BREIT CRUDE
	Midday trading figure		US \$ 1.4750 -0.0130		\$14.45 per barrel (Jan)

LONDON CLOSING PRICES

MARKETS IN DETAIL, PAGE 24; SHARE PRICES PAGE 31

Why Cyril Stein remains a man of property

To point out that 1993 has proved an annus horribilis for Ladbroke Group, the leisure enterprise led (for 27 years) by Cyril Stein, would be something of an understatement.

Not that all the year was horribilis. The climate, looking back, took a distinct turn for the worse in August, the last furlong, so to speak, before Ladbroke's revelation of its mid-year results for 1993. Rumours swirled that Stein, whose name is synonymous with Ladbroke, was poised to retire. Such rumours were denied. Come the interim results, in September, the denials gave way to confirmation. Stein, credited with turning a small firm of bookmakers to the aristocracy into a near-£2 billion constituent of the FT-SE 100, had decided to bow out as chairman and managing director and give way to chief executive Peter George and non-executive chairman John Jackson. Stein, for his part, let it be known he would remain a non-executive director for three

years (taking his service to 40 years), would maintain an "active involvement" in Ladbroke and would act as non-executive chairman of the property division. Even Sir Adrian Cadbury should have been pleased.

Stein's decision to hand over the reins was accompanied by news of a fall in pre-tax profits from £84.4 million to £62.5 million, in the wake of higher interest charges of £61.9 million (£44.6 million). The good news was that the property division, which lost more than £60 million during the whole of 1992, achieved a modest operating profit. Racing's contribution rose from £36 million to £40.5 million, while hotel operating profits were struck at £44.4 million (£49.3 million). Texas Homecare proved the major casualty: pressure on margins, reflecting competition from the likes of B&Q, resulted in a profit setback from £26.8 million to £15.7 million. Stein, proud of Ladbroke's historic dividend growth, held the

interim distribution at 4.92p, courtesy of a £12.7 million transfer from reserves.

Ladbroke's share price rose 8p to 210p initially but certain City commentators were sceptical. Why had Ladbroke denied Stein's impending retirement? Had Stein been pushed? Stein's colleagues were unlikely assassins so had a push come from elsewhere? Thoughts turned to those with muscle: the institutions. Thoughts also turned to Ladbroke's £1.3 billion debt and the banks that had made such funds available. Was Stein, 65, ill?

Then came the highly publicised crossing of swords with *The Mail on Sunday*. Ladbroke's sword appeared in the shape of an injunction. *The Mail on Sunday's* sword eventually appeared in the shape of a story that, contrary to the belief that Ladbroke is virtually unencumbered by charges on its assets, loans from the Dutch bank, ABN-Amro, were secured



MELVYN MARCKUS

on some £100 million of specific assets. Ladbroke dismissed the report as "misleading and misconceived".

Just for good measure, not a few City analysts have been revising their profit predictions, including joint brokers Smith New Court and Warburg Securities. Smith has cut its 1993 pre-tax prophecy from £152 million to £140 million with £175 million

rather than £190 million looked for in 1994.

Ladbroke, hardly surprisingly, is appalled at the change in sentiment wrought in the space of three months. Stein privately insists that the writing was on the wall regarding succession when George was appointed joint managing director in 1991. Stein is known to have taken the view earlier this year that the posts of executive chairman and chief executive would hardly sit well together: the timing of his exit, according to the powers that be, being decided by the fact that the appointment of key personnel to head up the divisions could only be achieved if Ladbroke's boardroom was opened up.

Speculation (which has now waned) of pressure for a boardroom shake-up from major shareholders of banks are categorically denied. The most popular adjective being "scurrilous" — as are theories that Stein is either unwell or set to emigrate

to Israel. The message which appears to be emanating to analysts on the trading front is that racing operations continue to progress, with property expected to show a modest profit for the full year. Hilton is believed to have usefully improved its first half performance although the downturn in Germany and Japan has taken a toll.

The Texas chainsaw massacre, by all accounts, would appear ongoing but Stein and George have consistently argued that the new management team, under John Coleman, former managing director of Dorothy Perkins, should succeed in altering the margin equation in 1994.

All of which leaves the focus on Ladbroke's £1.3 billion worth of debt, with gearing still looking uncomfortable at a little over 50 per cent. Stein has fiercely defended his refusal to fire-sale aspects of the portfolio at the bottom of the cycle: the promise being that properties will now be

sold down at book value or above — bearing in mind that some 75 per cent of debt is linked to the company's property interests.

The fact that Stein retains the chair at the property division is, perhaps, worthy of note, not least by those who believe the paring down of Ladbroke's debt is the overriding priority.

It will fall on George, come the full results in March, to initiate the almost inevitable dividend cut. BZW recently predicted a reduction from 11.2p to 8p.

Ladbroke's share price, at 162p, remains a far cry from its 1993 high of 222½p and more than £1 below 1993's peak. But it is interesting to note that BZW recently issued a buy recommendation: the advice being that "the black hole scenario has been ludicrously overplayed".

With a probable dividend cut in the offing Ladbroke's shares remain something of a short term gamble but news of any significant debt reduction would clearly prompt a rerating.



Roger Shute, BM's founder, stood down due to ill health

Restructuring costs at BM escalate to £102m

By SUSAN GELCHRIST

BM GROUP, the debt-laden construction equipment and engineering company, admitted its restructuring, aimed at restoring a sound financial footing, will cost £102 million — £60 million more than the company estimated in March.

Moger Woolley, the chairman, who took over from

Roger Shute, BM's founder who resigned abruptly last year on health grounds, said: "The costs of implementing the restructuring programme have been high, but the board believes that they are essential in order to provide a realistic and stable asset base from which to move forward." He

said the costs had escalated because rationalisation, which included the closure of loss-making businesses and large-scale disposals, had needed to be more radical than originally planned last March.

BM subsequently decided to sell holdings in several distribution businesses and close its

joinery operations. It was also forced to incur a £7 million charge to secure a committed loan facility from its banks until the end of next year.

Mr Woolley laid the blame firmly at the door of earlier acquisitions — in particular Blackwood Hodge, bought in November 1990, and Thomas Robinson, made in February last year — which left the group with gearing of 300 per cent. But he added that the disposal programme had raised more than £50 million, helping to cut debt from £160 million to £114 million. A further £40 million is expected from disposals by next June which will bring gearing below 100 per cent.

The £101.6 million exceptional charge for restructuring wiped out last year's £34.6 million profit to produce a pre-tax loss of £116.6 million for the year to June 30. Shareholders' funds have fallen from £157 million to £60 million.

BM now faces growing dissent among small shareholders, who have seen the share price fall from a high of 416p last year to 21p at yesterday's close. Mr Woolley sympathised with their position but insisted the actions being taken were "in the best interests of all the shareholders".

He also announced several boardroom changes including the departure of Howard Sutton, chief executive, who will assume the role of deputy chairman until next April. He will be replaced by Cliff Walker, a fellow director.

Lufthansa plays down link with Air France

By COLIN NARBROUGH
WORLD TRADE
CORRESPONDENT

LUFTHANSA, the German national carrier, is playing down remarks by Hemjo Klein, its marketing chief, who suggested that the airline is considering an "unbeatable" partnership with Air France.

The two state-controlled airlines, in terms of revenue passenger kilometres, would together be far bigger than British Airways (BA), currently Europe's largest carrier. A tie-up would also further cement the Franco-German axis at the heart of the European Union.

Lufthansa, the airline that stands to gain most from the failure this week of the Alcazar project to link four medium-sized carriers — KLM, Royal Dutch Airlines, Swissair, Austrian Airlines and Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) — has had long-standing co-operation with the French national airline in the area of computer reservations and ground handling.

Lufthansa's formal reaction to the Alcazar collapse provided confirmation that it seeks early talks with Austrian Airlines, and is interested in co-operation with Swissair. These links would "make the most sense", Lufthansa said. But Herr Hemjo, speaking to the German press, said that Air France would be an interesting partner, in addition.

However, Josef Grendel, a Lufthansa spokesman, said yesterday that there were "no concrete plans" for extending co-operation with the French. He also underlined that Lufthansa's policy was "cooperation, not merger", with the focus on marketing.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Pearson emerges as Extel sale favourite

UNITED Newspapers is expected to make an announcement soon on the sale of Extel Financial following confirmation that VNU, the Dutch media group, has withdrawn from the bidding. Pearson Group, publishers of the *Financial Times*, is understood to have emerged as the strong favourite as eventual suitor for Extel, which Lord Stevens' United Newspapers bought for £250 million six years ago. A spokesman for VNU in Holland said a "too-high" asking price was a significant factor in talks being terminated.

City estimates are that Extel will be sold for £50 million to £70 million, although one analyst said: "That gives an unreal picture because, after the previous sale of a big part of the company, and shutting down of the sports information division, what is now on offer represents only about 14 per cent of UN's original purchase price." Pearson, which has never confirmed it is in the sale talks, declined to comment.

Air Europe payout

THE 7,000 unsecured creditors to Air Europe, one of the principal British businesses of International Leisure Group, which was placed in administration in March 1991 with liabilities of more than £500 million, are to receive a dividend of 5.35p in the pound. The total payment of about £21 million was announced by Phil Wallace, of KPMG Peat Marwick, one of the joint administrators. The payment was made possible by the co-operation of the 11 main creditors.

Receivers at Swithland

SWITHLAND Group, the Midlands car dealer, which has 360 employees, has been put in administrative receivership, ten days after its planned flotation flopped due to insufficient investors. Myles Halley and John Wheatley, of KPMG Peat Marwick, have been appointed joint administrative receivers. Swithland was offering shares at 81p, which would have valued it at £21 million and raised £10 million. NatWest Ventures, the venture capital backer, holds 35 per cent.

On Demand float details

FIVE directors of On Demand Information, an electronic publishing company, are set to become paper multi-millionaires when the company floats on the Unlisted Securities Market next month. The company is offering 12.75 million shares at 78p, valuing it at about £40 million. Graham Poulter, founder, chairman and chief executive, along with his four fellow directors and their families will own 48.2 per cent, worth £19.2 million. ODI is raising £9.1 million.

Stagecoach in takeover

STAGECOACH, the recently floated Perth-based bus operator, is paying £9.25 million for Western Travel. Western's vendors are receiving £500,000 in cash, £4.75 million in Stagecoach shares and £4 million in five-year variable rate guaranteed loan notes. Western is to pay the vendors a special dividend of about £4.5 million, of which £2.1 million is being lent by Stagecoach. The vendors are also retaining Noel Hotels, a subsidiary of Western.

Simon in disposal talks

SIMON Engineering, the debt-laden group, said it is in talks that may lead it to sell Unichem International. Western Company of North America is the potential buyer of Unichem, which has annual sales of \$30 million from specialty chemicals and technical services. Maurice Dixon, the chief executive appointed in September, is understood to want to reduce Simon Engineering's debt to less than £100 million from £140 million-plus.

Tempus, page 23

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FERRANTI INTERNATIONAL

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NATIONAL WESTMINSTER: Lord Alexander and Derek Wanless

Towering over the world of banking

partners in power

Patricia Tehan profiles the men who are rebuilding the NatWest in today's fast-moving markets

At face value, Lord Alexander of Weedon is the urbane barrister who has steered National Westminster Bank through choppy waters, restoring its battered image, while Derek Wanless, his chief executive, is the shirt-sleeved career banker, determined to knock down the bank's hierarchies and face up to life in the 1990s. But scratch beneath the surface and a more complex relationship emerges.

The partnership has been in place since March 1992 when Alexander asked Wanless to take over from Tom Frost, who wanted to clear his name in the aftermath of the Blue Arrow affair. He became chief executive on a beefed-up board, created by Alexander who has strong views on corporate governance.

There are obvious similarities between the two. Both are from modest backgrounds, both went to King's College Cambridge. But Alexander read English and law, and practised law in an independent profession for 28 years. Wanless read mathematics, sponsored by NatWest, and then went straight into the nitty gritty of retail banking.

Under their leadership NatWest has shed its paternalistic, bureaucratic image. It has refocused its business into four divisions, UK branch banking, NatWest Markets, US retail banking and international operations. In Alexander's words, "focusing on areas where there are profit opportunities and we can develop the skills to take advantage of those opportunities".

Alexander compares his relationship with Wanless to working with another barrister on a big case. "I would see him as one once saw the other silk one was working with, as

very much a partner in the case. That is where one gets the extra power, the extra dimension." Although there is a ten-year age gap, Alexander says their relationship is not one of senior and junior partner. They always get on, "but we may start out from a different point of view". He says people should not be misled by Wanless's quiet approach: "He would influence me as much as I influence him."

Although Wanless was the bank's youngest chief executive, and the job is a large one, "there are always issues that are arising, sometimes tough decisions. But I never see him daunted". Alexander adds that with Wanless's down-to-earth attitude, he is unlikely to become complacent over his success. He describes his role as "seeing that the board works, that it gets all the information it needs, corporate governance, that it contributes to strategy. That I see and encourage people at all levels. I have a huge part in representing the bank outside".

Alexander says the relationship has been able to step in for the other as needed. "Derek's job is to provide the leadership to the executive team. To see that the board has proposals to debate. To monitor tightly the accountability of his senior executives. Also to know what is going on, and make a contribution to our external work."

They first met just before Alexander took over as chairman in October 1989 when Wanless was making a presentation to the board. Alexander says it was clear that Wanless was a rising star, "you do not have to spend very long with Derek to see that he has tremendous ability". Wanless had joined the

'You do not have to spend very long with Derek to see that he has great ability'



Lord Alexander, left, compares his relationship with Derek Wanless to two barristers working on a big case — "that is where one gets the extra power, the extra dimension"

board in 1991, as chief executive of UK Financial Services. In 1992, after much discussion over some "pretty powerful candidates", the directors "felt that Derek had the qualities which were undoubtedly needed at a very important time for the bank and when the industry was changing". He says Wanless "has a very analytical mind and approach to business. He is modern in his thinking. There is nothing paternalistic in him, he is down to earth. He is the sort of person you might find as chief executive in industry".

One mark of the success of the appointment, made despite Wanless's comparative youth, was that "his executive colleagues supported" it. The chairman says: "Although he has the drive he is also a team leader. He has the self-confidence to modify his view if colleagues persuade him that he is wrong."

After the Bishopsgate bomb

in the City in April, Alexander said Wanless's "quality and style of leadership" became clear. Wanless drove to a control centre as soon as he got word of the bomb, keeping the chairman in touch with events during the day. By early evening, when Alexander arrived, he says, someone had thought of an answer to every question he asked.

Wanless's first impressions of the new chairman "were inevitably physical, in terms of height and stature [Alexander is six-foot-six]. He is an impressive individual and gets more so as you get to know him".

Wanless was running the UK bank and the two had regular discussions as Alexander felt his way round the group. Wanless remembers admiring "his ability to absorb information and understand what was put to him. His

learning curve was tough and steep, but it was clear that everything that was said to him was stored. He was able to make the connections".

Wanless has worked for NatWest since leaving Cambridge with a double first in maths. At 44 he was the youngest ever chief executive of the bank, and the first graduate. His appointment was no surprise to him or to colleagues — it was his ambition and he was clearly on NatWest's fast-track.

Wanless admits that he was keen to break down the bank's old-fashioned paternalistic structure: he prefers to speak to staff on first name terms, is keen to be seen as approachable and says "we both try to get people to say what they think". He says they have worked hard at giving NatWest a "thoughtful, analytical style".

His job has involved recommending tough decisions to

the board, including a staff cutting programme and pulling out of some smaller overseas retail operations. "It is not a retreat to the UK. We had businesses that were not going to win in the markets they were in," he says.

The changes were not just to rectify poor decisions in the past or for the sake of change, but were to keep pace with the bank's fast-moving markets. He describes his role at the bank as analysing the markets that the bank is in, taking proposed strategy changes to the board and implementing them once they are approved.

Wanless says his strength as chief executive is that, "I know the business very well, also because I have been here for a long time, 23 years. I know how to make things happen in a large organisation, which is something which needs to be thought through and learnt".

He says Alexander is also "a superb ambassador for us

around the world". He says the chairman's strengths are "his ability to ask the right questions, a tremendously deep interest in people". Alexander is also interested "in making sure that the bank gets the balance right in terms of all of its stockholders", customers, shareholders and staff. He adds that a bank must have integrity and Alexander "brings massive integrity and openness".

Since Wanless took over he has been keen to instill in managers the need to concentrate on the longer-term financial health of the bank instead of just short-term profitability. But he says that while "the impetus for that programme would come from me, it fits very closely with the chairman's views about openness and the passage of information around the group".

He is also trying to speed up the decision-making process. "We have done a lot of work to

get decision-making pushed down the organisation as far as we can — but so everybody making these decisions would know what NatWest would want them to do."

While their skills and backgrounds are highly complementary, their shared weakness is impatience. "Once you have decided to do something you want to do it now," Wanless says. "Sometimes I have to tell Bob what is practical, you want to do things quickly but you have to make sure the wheels don't fall off."

They do not always agree about everything, but Wanless says their discussions are "pretty well-balanced". He says: "Both of us like intellectual debate. We start off with the belief that there is a right answer." But he says: "If there is a disagreement it will often be about how the world is going to change, what is going to happen in the future" rather than over current policies.

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TEMPUS

Quantum leap back to favour

HANSON is enjoying a sudden recovery in popularity. Its shares, which had been languishing for two years and more, have gained almost 27 per cent since the \$3.2 billion acquisition of Quantum Chemical at the end of June, when *Tempus* predicted they were due for a re-rating.

The group's third-quarter results next Thursday should give investors some idea whether their confidence is well-placed. While nine-month profits are likely to be uninspiringly flat at about £1.08 billion, since many of the group's markets are still in recession, the City will watch the dividend closely. Any increase in the quarterly payout from 2.85p will be seen as a sign of optimism.

Investors are less interested in the current year than in the scope for growth in the next two years. Quantum's potential is particularly appealing. The acquisition should be earnings-enhancing after a mere refinancing of its debt and closure of the head office, but that is already in the share price. If, however, Hanson can ride the upturn in the chemicals cycle and improve Quantum's operating efficiency, it could return to its previous peak profits of \$760 million by the middle of the decade.

This argument takes Hanson's sense of timing on faith. Ten years ago, that was never an issue, since the group had a knack of buying into industries at precisely the right moment. In the more recent acquisitions of Consolidated Goldfields and Beazer, the timing has slipped badly. The acquisition of Beazer for its Koppers aggregate business in America was based on the assumption of a resurgence in demand, which has failed to emerge. Perhaps management changes and the rigours of a recession have reshaped Hanson's skill for finding undervalued assets.

Hanson bulls have also been heartened by this week's start of a disposal programme, also predicted by *Tempus*, with the sale of Axelson and the American office products business for a total of £166 million. The group is keen to reduce its £3.5 billion net debt, which is preventing any opportunistic bids. Hanson has more than 100 smaller subsidiaries, mostly in America, which could be sold. The proceeds of this shakedown really need to be twice the City's £500 million estimate to have any real impact on the balance sheet, and the early sales suggest a £1 billion figure is attainable.

Lower debts and an upturn in the chemicals, aggregates and building material markets could have a dramatic impact on Hanson's profits by 1995, pushing profits above £1.5 billion. If so, it will be the first time the group's earnings growth has outperformed the market average in years. Even if the growth is less dramatic, Hanson's shares still yield more than 5 per cent on an current dividend, 25 per cent higher than the market average, suggesting they still have further to go.

BM Group

GIVEN the speed that BM Group has unravelled, one can sympathise with the astonished rage of its shareholders. Until June last year, BM appeared to be a promising construction equipment group. Nine months later, it was a basket case teetering on the brink of survival.

The group's long-awaited results for the year to end-June reveal the extent of the underlying problems but do not answer the question over survival. If Moger Woolley, the chairman, completes all the intended disposals, BM will be left with a mixed bag of process machinery and manufacturing businesses with sales of £154 million and trading profits of £11.7 million. With this, it needs to support net borrowings of £86 million, or gearing of 128 per cent after minorities. That looks possible but not easy, since profits from the continuing businesses fell 30 per cent last year. Like Tiphook, BM is a company where the value of the equity is entirely dependent on the goodwill of the banks. A £7 million refinancing charge has bought some leeway until the end of next year.

The most worrying aspect is that the seeds of the company's downfall were sown three years ago with the acquisition of Blackwood Hodge, whose operations were borrowing heavily to finance sales of construction equipment, something never apparent in the balance sheet at the time.

Simon Engineering

SIMON is another engineering business trying to claw its way back to health, helped by low interest rates and understanding bankers. The sale of Unichem, a speciality chemical distributor, is unlikely to bring in more than \$10 million, but it shows that Maurice Dixon, chief executive, can deliver on his promise to reduce debts. Even so, the shares at 81p are already anticipating a great deal more success.

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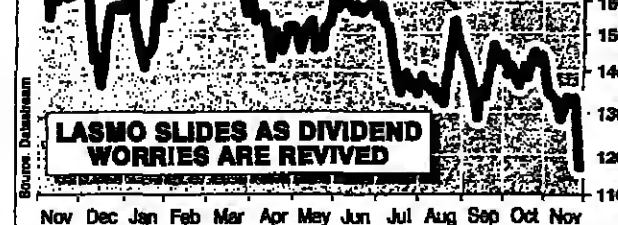
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BIG DAY TIPS 27

How share prices perform on Budget days

WEEKEND MONEY

WATER TORTURE 27

Consumers could face huge bill for cleaner water



No consensus on mortgage rate prospects

Experts are completely at odds with each other over whether mortgage rates have bottomed out or there is still further to go. Liz Dolan reports

This week's cut in base rates appears to have done nothing to free the housing market from the vicious circle in which it has been trapped for five years. If anything, it has served to highlight the dilemma facing potential home buyers.

While they scan the horizon for signs of economic recovery, industry waits anxiously for an improvement in the housing market. Until the solution to this particular Catch 22 can be found, rate cuts will have little impact.

Before this week's reductions, mortgage rates were already at their lowest levels for 14 years in relation to average earnings. But most people will not move without evidence of a sustained improvement in house prices and solid signs of economic recovery.

A report published this week by the Association of London Authorities underlined the continuing seriousness of the problem of falling house prices. It said that four out of five recent home buyers in London, 280,000 households, still had negative equity averaging £10,000. Nationally, nearly 1.5 million home owners could not sell because their homes were worth less than their mortgages, it said.

Mark Hemingway of the Halifax is convinced that the housing market will lead the rest of the economy out of recession. "But there's no getting away from the fact that the main problem at the moment is a general lack of confidence, and that's why it's vital that the Chancellor does nothing to rock the boat next Tuesday," he says.

Some fear that the base rate cut is a forerunner to a further reduction in mortgage interest relief (MIRAS) in the Budget. The value to borrowers of a 0.5 per cent cut in interest payments on a £50,000 mortgage roughly offsets the cost of a five-point reduction in MIRAS.

Lenders have reacted cautiously. The Royal Bank of Scotland has said it will cut its variable rate by the full 0.5 per cent to 7.49 per cent. The Bank of Ireland has reduced its rate to 7.6 per cent for existing customers. A handful, including the Nationwide Building Society and National Westminster Bank, have already announced a 0.25 per cent reduction. Others, notably the

'I can't see how mortgage rates can ever go below 6.99 per cent'

Halifax, have signalled their intention to cut, but are waiting until the Budget before deciding the size of the reduction. The majority have yet to respond in any way.

Roger Bootle, chief economist at Midland Bank, forecasts a sustained period of low rates. He predicts that bank base rates will have fallen to 4 per cent by the middle of 1994 at the latest, and sees no reason why they should return to the high rates the country has experienced over the past decade or so. "A year ago, most people thought I was mad when I predicted that rates would be down to 5 per cent by the end of this year. More and

more people are now forecasting 5 per cent or even 4.5 per cent in the next few months.

"The economy is already fundamentally weak. It will be even weaker next April when previous tax changes come into force. Inflation is now dead. People who talk about interest rates picking up again are just extrapolating from the past. It's a different world now."

Putting his money where his mouth is, Mr Bootle has just moved house and has taken out a floating-rate loan tied to base rates. "Fixed-rate mortgages are madness," he says. "Well, all right, it does depend how nervous you are. Many people have been through a difficult time and may want to be able to say 'I know I can afford it'."

But I would describe a fixed rate mortgage as paying more for the protection it gives you."

Ian Darby of mortgage broker John Charcol takes the opposite view. "I would say that, if everyone follows Nationwide's 0.25 per cent cut, it will show what good value most fixed rates are. BNP and Cheltenham & Gloucester, for instance, are offering a five year fix at 6.99 per cent. Even if there is another base rate cut, how much is likely to be passed on to the borrower?"

Mr Darby considers that base rates will have to fall at least another percentage point, probably more, before mortgage rates will fall below current fixed-rate levels. "I struggle to see how mortgage rates can ever drop below 6.99 per cent."

John Wriglesworth, build-



Bryan Thompson's endowment-linked loan on his Eastbourne home will not be paid off until 2008

A moving story of our times

When Bryan Thompson retired this year, he and his wife, Rhian, still had a £30,000 mortgage on their £110,000 house. He says now: "At the time, I didn't give it much thought, but now I regret not paying it off earlier."

They moved to their present home in Eastbourne in 1988. At first, they opted for a repayment mortgage. However, the manager of their local Woolwich branch, a personal friend, recommended they change to an endowment-linked loan.

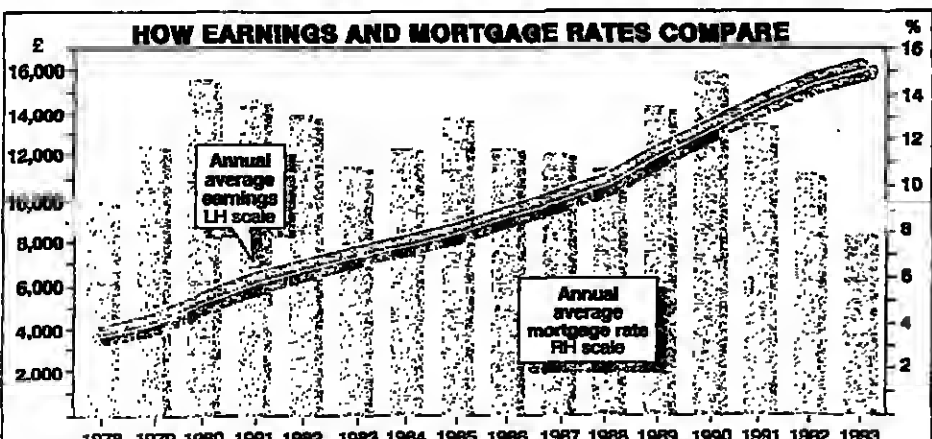
This will not mature until 2008. Mr Thompson will then be 77. "If I won the pools, probably the first thing I'd do is tool down to the Woolwich and pay off the mortgage. I'd be quite happy to keep the endowment going. I just want to be shot of the loan. It made sense to keep it going when we were both working because of the tax. Now I've retired, I'm obviously paying far less tax."

In 1962, the couple bought their first home, in Clydach, a small village near Swansea, for £3,200. They took out a mortgage for 90 per cent. "It seemed an enormous amount at the time." Both are dentists and, to begin with, the house served as a home and work premises.

Over the next ten years, they had three children. Justin, now a 31-year-old GP in Dorking, Truro, 29, a psychology student at Sussex University, and David, two years her junior, a futures and options dealer. "In 1972, we decided we were fed up with having our practice at home. Anyone with toothache just rang up at any time." So, they bought a large Victorian terraced house in Swansea with "a cellar, huge lounge, attic — and no patients". It cost £25,000. The mortgage was "around £20,000 — it's difficult to remember."

Six years later, Mr Thompson took a job as a dental adviser at the Dental Practice Board in Eastbourne. Both home and practice were sold, and the Thompsons bought a large cottage Tudor-style cottage for £37,000, again with a £20,000 mortgage. They moved to a smaller house in 1988 after the children moved away. "But, in about five or six years' time, we may move to an even smaller one."

Weekend Money is edited by Rose Wild



ing societies analyst at UBS, is another who cannot believe that rates will remain low. He is uncertain how much lower base rates will affect building society mortgage rates because of the knock-on effect on savings rates. Societies are required by law to fund the bulk of their mortgage lending with investors' deposits.

At the moment, building society sav-

Insurers courting trouble

It is not surprising that policyholders gain the impression that insurers never want to pay out. Stories abound of disputed claims and insurance investigators travelling the world to prove a policyholder is deceased.

Now Aegon Life Assurance has announced that it is to challenge in the High Court 23 orders made by Dr Julian Farrand, the Insurance Ombudsman, to pay compensation to its policyholders. The company has been told to pay a total approaching £1 million to investors who believed that a guarantee to pay an annual return of 10 per cent meant that they would get just that.

Dr Farrand received almost 50 cases concerning the life company's single-premium investment bonds sold by a financial adviser called Ashlands. Although the company's name was used to sell the bonds, it is now trying to say that it is not responsible for the promises made between 1984 and 1987.

The company was obviously quite happy to let the cases go to the Ombudsman to start with. Presumably, it thought it would win. After all, the odds are two to one in favour of the insurance companies. The findings must have come as a shock.

Ombudsmen have provided insurance, bank, building society and other investment customers with a simple and cheap way of getting redress. They also allow companies to get rid of vexatious litigants.

Remarkably, all the main ombudsmen appear consistently to find in favour of 35 or 36 per cent of complainants and throw out all the other cases.



LINDSAY COOK
Deputy Business Editor

This is partly because the organisations now know when they will be better off settling. This week Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman, acknowledged that his case load had not risen because the more straightforward cases were dealt with in-house.

The existence of an ombudsman is a powerful ally for all customers. Should the High Court find for Aegon, a new doubt will exist for all who pursue a complaint. What if I win and the company decides to go to court?

Companies that belong to ombudsmen schemes have usually agreed to abide by the findings. It would be unfortunate if other companies follow Aegon's lead. Investors may well fear that companies will be happy for the Ombudsman to take any flak when a case is turned down but will dispute cases where the policyholder wins.

Whatever the result, the publicity is a useful reminder that guarantees are in most cases only as good as the company providing them. Investors currently seeking high and fast returns must remember that the higher the interest or income promised the greater is the risk

that it will not be paid. Customers should also pay closer attention to who is selling an investment and how closely he or she is attached to the company that offers the product.

Bank watchdog, page 28

Paper tale

Peripatetic dealing systems frighten many small investors. When the Stock Exchange was managing to lose £80 million in attempting to produce a stockbroking system with no share certificates, little heed seemed to be given to individuals who felt they were being railroaded towards a riskier investment environment.

They were derided by the professionals when they said they wanted to keep their certificates, and ridiculed when they said they did not trust nominee accounts and did not want to pay extra charges to help the professionals.

Now the Bank of England is trying again, and it has listened to those small investors. The Crest system, according to the working party's consultative document, will allow investors to keep their share certificates if they want to. Many will not want the bother, but others, remembering Barlow Clowes and many other tawdry frauds, will want to know they have them safe.

Not everyone has listened to investors, though. Some unit trust groups are doing away with certificates. Their investors are less than happy. Until there is a greater degree of trust in the market place those companies may be avoided by the cautious.

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Historic pointers to Budget day share moves

Liz Dolan assesses the odds on how equities should perform

When Chancellors speak on Budget day, stock markets react, sometimes in a big way. In 1970, share prices rose by more than 6 per cent in response to the first Conservative Budget since 1964 when Chancellor Anthony Barber reduced taxes and announced the eventual introduction of VAT. Conversely, the FT-SE 100 dropped by 1.3 per cent just two years ago in response to Norman Lamont's first Budget. David Schwartz, edi-

tor of the 1994 Investor's Diary, has studied share price trends for every Budget since 1936. He has found that, despite the preceding apprehension and gloom, investors usually do well on the day. Since 1936, share prices have risen immediately after seven out of every ten Budget speeches and have fallen only 24 per cent of the time. When prices fall, they can do so by a large margin as frightened investors push the sell button. These declines are getting



still further over the subsequent three days. At their lowest point, shares had fallen by an average 2.61 per cent from their already depressed Budget day low. This is equal to an 81-point decline on

today's index. On the whole, Budget day share prices tend to rise rather than fall. But in the five days before the Budget, prices have fallen in seven out of every ten years since 1936. If prices rise in the week before Budget day, the odds heavily favour a rise on the day itself. If prices fall by 3 per cent or more in the five-day run-up, there is a very strong chance they will also rise on Budget day. Shares rose in six of the seven years when the decline was 3 per cent or more. According to Mr Schwartz, the direction of prices on Budget day itself sends no usable signal to longer-term

investors. So no one should try to make a snap prediction of where prices are heading merely by noting closing prices on Tuesday night. Instead, Mr Schwartz favours watching the price trend in the four-week run-up to Budget day. If prices rise more than 5 per cent, it is a clear signal that further price increases are due in the four weeks that follow Budget day. On Tuesday, November 2 this year, the FT-SE 100 closed at 3,114.1. Yesterday, it closed at 3,114.4, 1.7 per cent lower over the four weeks. The 1994 Investor's Diary costs £24.95 from Burleigh Publishing Company (0453 731173).

Water bills could soar to pay cost of EC measures

A European directive on cleaning up pollution is worrying the government, says Robert Miller

The prospect of household water bills jumping by as much as £500 over the next five years forced Chancellor Kenneth Clarke to put the issue at the top of the agenda at this week's meeting of EC finance ministers. Compliance with the European Community's Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, which will account for the rise, was an unscheduled addition to the Chancellor's agenda. Its appearance was an indication of the government's serious concern. The total cost of meeting the required EC standards for waste-water treatment could total £12 billion over the next decade. Without government funding, consumers will have to foot the bill. There could also be implications for the level of dividend payments to the 850,000 shareholders in the ten privatised water companies.

could also borrow money at favourable terms from financial institutions. After all, they are low-risk companies thriving in a monopolistic environment. The cost could be spread over generations rather than be paid for immediately. Guy Linley-Adams, water campaigner at Friends of the Earth, adds: "We support a pesticide tax on manufacturers to pay for cleaning up our drinking water. Let the polluter pay."

Household water bills could jump by as much as £500 in the next five years

Chris Hines, general secretary of the campaign group Surfers Against Sewage, believes that government funding is essential if beaches are to meet the required standards of cleanliness. He says: "The government should make a contribution to a central fund to which all the water companies should have to pay something. The South West has 32 per cent of the UK's

most popular beaches supported by a customer base of only 3 per cent." This week South West Water, which reported a 2.9 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £50.3m in the six months to end September, argued that the timetable for implementing the EC directive was "a government issue". Mr Hines points to the example of Welsh Water as showing what can be achieved. Welsh Water, which is responsible for a long stretch of coastline, has embarked on a £1 billion investment programme.

Nigel Annett, the company's director of planning, explains: "Our customers have said they are prepared to pay another 2 per cent on their bills. We will also be borrowing money at the rate of some £100 million a year by the end of the decade." Colin Skellett, managing director of Wessex Water, argues: "The dividends that Wessex has paid out are about half the amount we used to pay to the government in privatisation days. We have to maintain a certain dividend level to protect investor confidence."



Chris Hines says government and water companies should pay

How the bills will be met

AMID the controversy over higher water rates there is another debate over how consumers should pay their bills in future. Water companies must find an alternative to the present system of billing by the old rateable value of the property by April 2000. The choice has narrowed to three possibilities: water metering on consumption; a flat licence fee; or a banding system based on property size, valuation or other criteria. Ofwat, the industry regulator, favours a selected metering option where installation costs are cheap or water is in short supply. To date, Anglian and Essex Water have opted for metering, while Northumbrian, North West and Welsh Water have decided against. According to The Water Metering Trials Final Report, published by the Water Services Association and based on 60,000 households, the cost of installing internal meters averaged £165 and external meters £200. About 5 to 10 per cent of properties were too expensive to meter. Any consumer is entitled to ask for a meter under the meter option scheme. Ofwat opposes a banding system akin to the council tax, but it is even less keen on a flat rate licence fee as it would be unpopular and unfair.

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Banking ended

The chairman of the Bank of England, Mr. Norman Foster, has said that the bank is not planning to raise its base rate. He said that the bank is not planning to raise its base rate. He said that the bank is not planning to raise its base rate.

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BES deals are poised for last fling before deadline

If the Chancellor can be persuaded to forgo the £100 million the Treasury could collect if BES schemes are closed on Budget day next Tuesday, investors can expect to be deluged with even more offers before the schemes are withdrawn on December 31.

Robert Miller reports on the key points investors should bear in mind before taking the plunge

Investors must consider their tax position: factors such as whether they are in the 25 per cent or 40 per cent band, or if they are a PAYE employee or self-employed under Schedule D, will influence which scheme is most suitable.

which are not guarantees. On its current recommendation sheet (free on 071-936 2037), BES has separated the schemes into three categories: Arranged Exit, schemes linked to returns from the FT-SE 100 index, and straightforward assured tenancy schemes without arranged exits.



UNIFIED BUDGET 1993

the investor's BES tax-exempt status. Finally, there are the straightforward entrepreneurial or trading BES schemes, such as Johnson Fry's Criterion, raising money for the theatre, or Hop Back Brewery, seeking funds to expand an existing business.

Of the trading schemes, which do not offer any contracted or arranged exits, Mr. Paramor says: "Look at the fundamentals of the company as if you were investing in ordinary shares."

Investors are urged 'not to be stampeded' and to seek advice

Chancellor chooses for the next generation of BES schemes, he will have to keep it simple — and accept that if private investors are to be tempted in meaningful numbers there must, at the very least, be a limit to the amount of money they could lose.

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Compounded at 40%	Min/Max Investment	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c	0.38	0.38	0.38	1,000	7 day	
Fixed Term Deposits						
Barclays	3.28	3.28	2.83	25,000-50,000	1 min	071-626 1567
Lloyds	3.22	3.22	2.59	5,000-50,000	3 min	071-626 1567
Midland	3.28	3.28	2.59	10,000-no max	1 min	Local Branch
Natwest	3.00	3.00	2.40	10,000-no max	6 min	Local Branch
TSB Bank	3.28	3.28	2.59	10,000-100,000	1 min	0742 526655
Yorkshire	3.28	3.28	2.59	10,000-100,000	3 min	0742 526655
Yorkshire	3.00	3.00	2.40	25,000-50,000	1 min	071-726 1000
Yorkshire	3.00	3.00	2.40	25,000-50,000	3 min	071-726 1000

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Standard Bank	2.88	2.88	2.34	2,500	none	031-442 777
Barclays	1.68	1.68	1.26	2,500	none	0804 252881
Co-operative	0.19	0.19	0.15	500	none	071-659 6543
Citibank	3.75	3.75	3.06	2,000	none	0800 555894
Lloyds	0.75	0.75	0.62	1,000	none	0772 428271
Midland	1.50	1.50	1.20	2,000	none	0742 526655
Natwest	1.13	1.13	0.90	500	none	0800 300 400
Standard Bank	1.50	1.51	1.21	2,000	none	031-556 8556
TSB Bank	1.38	1.38	1.10	2,000	none	071-400 6020
Building Societies						
Ordinary Share A/c	0.75	0.75	0.60	50+	none	
Best buy — largest socs:						
British & West	5.38	5.38	4.28	50,000 min	Postal	
Westminster	5.38	5.38	4.28	100,000 min	Postal	
British & West	4.73	4.73	3.78	50,000 min	30 day	
Westminster	5.38	5.38	4.28	50,000 min	90 day	
The Lloyds	5.38	5.38	4.28	100,000 min	1 year	
Best buy — all socs:						
North of England	5.25	5.25	4.20	25,000 min	Postal	
North of England	5.44	5.44	4.35	25,000 min	30 day	
St Pauls	5.38	5.38	4.27	25,000 min	60 day	
Westminster	6.00	6.00	4.80	100,000 min	90 day	
Natwest	5.44	5.44	4.35	5,000 min	1 year	

NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c	3.75	2.81	2.25	500-10,000	8 day	041-646-4555
Investment A/c	6.25	4.68	3.75	20-24,999	1 min	041-646-4555
Income Bond	7.00	5.25	4.20	2,000-24,999	3 min	0253 769151
8th Index Fund	3.25	3.25	3.25	100-10,000	8 day	081-336-4300
40th Index Fund	5.75	5.75	5.75	100-10,000	8 day	081-336-4300
Yearly Plan	5.75	5.75	5.75	20-400/min	14 day	081-336-4300
Children's Bond	7.25	7.25	7.25	25-1,000		
Govt Est Bond	5.75	5.75	5.75			
Capital Bond	7.25	5.81	4.85	100-250,000	8 days	041-646-4555
1st Option Bond	4.75	4.75	3.50	1,000-250,000		

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Consolidated LI	4.30	4.30	3.85	2,000 min	1 yrs	Figure from
Consolidated LI	4.75	4.75	4.04	2,000 min	2 yrs	Chorus de
Prosperity Life	5.25	5.25	4.45	25,000 min	3 yrs	Vers
Financial Ass	5.65	5.65	4.80	50,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5768
Liberty Life	6.40	6.40	5.44	50,000 min	5 yrs	for details

RATES						
RPI (Oct 90-93)	+1.4%					
Bank Base Rate	5.5%					
Personal Loan	22%					
Credit Card	22-27%					

TESSA						
Flexibility & Pity	8.00	£3,241.50	90 days loan	£25	0455 251 224	
St Pauls	8.00	£3,241.50	£25+90days notice	£10	071 7942331	
Dunelm	1.80	£2,267.00	1 min notice+90days	£3,000	0883 721 521	
Dunelm	7.87	£2,236.10	Reverts share A/c	£10	0384 251 414	
Shapell	7.80	£3,234.00		£25	0576 503308	

1. RPI for balances below £500. 2. First £70 of interest free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or more. 3. For details of the Tessa Plus scheme, see the Tessa Plus brochure. 4. For details of the Tessa Plus scheme, see the Tessa Plus brochure. 5. For details of the Tessa Plus scheme, see the Tessa Plus brochure.

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An Equitable pension means you can vary contributions — without penalty.

You know exactly what your circumstances are today, and can choose a pension plan to suit them perfectly. But what about tomorrow? Or next year? Or ten years from now?

What you need is a pension plan which is flexible enough to cope with any changes in your lifestyle — without making you pay a penalty.

That is why you should consider an Equitable personal pension plan. We don't pay commission to third parties for the introduction of new business, and our expenses are kept extremely low. So, you don't have to commit yourself to paying identical contributions each year; they can be increased or reduced to suit you — without penalty.

And if you want to retire earlier than planned, your benefits will be exactly the same as if you'd chosen that date in the first place.

What's more, you have the reassurance of knowing that your pension fund is in the hands of one of the finest investment teams in the U.K.

So, if you'd like further information, by post and by telephone, on a personal pension plan that lives up to its name, call Aylesbury (0296) 26226 or return the coupon below.

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To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Watson Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7BR
I would welcome details on the Equitable personal plan. I am self-employed ☐ TMPTDF
I am an employee and as a company pension scheme ☐

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms)
ADDRESS
Tel. (Office)
Tel. (Home)
Date of Birth

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

Life in a very gilded cage

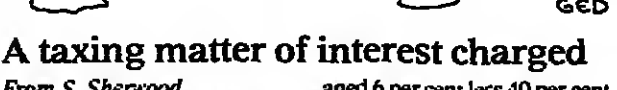
From M. James
Sir, If the intention of the article "My home is my prison" (October 30) was to elicit sympathy for Messrs Fitzgerald, Green et al, then I think it should be counter-balanced by "My home is my goose that lays golden eggs".

Have they waived the interest?

Yes... in front of my nose. Three times

Peps only work on higher rate tax

From A. A. Sorrell
Sir, From Mr Arguile's letter (November 6) it seems that the great Peps can trick continues. On December 19 last year you published a letter from me explaining that through a reduction in dividend due to poor performance, but an increase in the share price due to a takeover bid I paid fees of £70 on my Midland Bank Pep but saved £7 in income tax.



A taxing matter of interest charged

From S. Sherwood
Sir, Re Revenue charges interest on its own late bills (Weekend Money Letters, November 13). I have had several clashes with the Revenue on this subject which David Edwards writes to you about.

Cracking the Mailort double code

From Mr George T. Robinson
Sir, The reason your reader (Weekend Money Letters, November 6) has found two different codes for his address is that a complete revision of the Mailort system took place during October this year, and both numbers are acceptable for the next few months.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of and has been approved by The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited ("the London Stock Exchange") pursuant to Section 134(1)(a) of the Financial Services Act 1986.

This advertisement does not contain any information about Mercury World Mining Trust plc ("MWMT") (other than the information set out below) and should therefore be read in conjunction with the listing particulars dated 25th November, 1993 (the "Listing Particulars") which alone contain full details of MWMT.

Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the undermentioned Ordinary Shares and Warrants to be admitted in the Official List. It is expected that listing will become effective and that dealings in the Ordinary Shares and Warrants will commence on Wednesday, 15th December, 1993.

MERCURY WORLD MINING TRUST plc

(Incorporated and registered in England and Wales, no. 2868209)

Placing and Offer for Subscription

of 500,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each with Warrants attached on a one for five basis at a price of 100p per Ordinary Share

sponsored by

S.G. Warburg Securities Ltd. and Cazenove & Co.

Mercury World Mining Trust plc Application Form

IMPORTANT: Before completing this Form you should read the Listing Particulars relating to Mercury World Mining Trust plc. Boxes 1-4 must be completed by all Applicants. Your remittance must be placed at Box 5. Boxes 6 and 7 must also be completed in the case of joint Applicants.

Applications must be for a minimum of 1,000 Ordinary Shares with Warrants attached. Applications must be made in multiples of 1,000 Ordinary Shares with Warrants attached.

I/We offer to subscribe for Ordinary Shares with Warrants attached at 100p each See Note 1

in Mercury World Mining Trust plc on the terms and subject to the conditions of application set out in the Listing Particulars dated 25th November, 1993 See Note 2

and I/we attach a cheque or banker's draft for the amount payable, namely £ 2

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS See Note 3

Mr/Ms/Ms/Ts Forename(s) Surname 3

Address (in full)

Postcode

Dear 1993 Signature 4

☐ **Pin your cheque or banker's draft for the amount shown in Box 2 made payable to "Barclays Bank PLC a/c MWMT" and crossed "A/c payee only". You may send the completed Application Form by post or deliver it by hand to New Issues Department, Barclays Registrars, P.O. Box 166, Bourne House, 34 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4TH or alternatively, it may be delivered by hand only to Barclays Registrars, 170 Fenchurch Street, London EC3. In each case, it must arrive not later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 8th December, 1993.** 5

Boxes 6 and 7 must be completed in the case of joint Applicants only See Notes 6 and 7

Mr/Ms/Ms/Ts <input type="text"/>	Mr/Ms/Ms/Ts <input type="text"/>	Mr/Ms/Ms/Ts <input type="text"/>
Forename(s) in full <input type="text"/>	Forename(s) in full <input type="text"/>	Forename(s) in full <input type="text"/>
Surname <input type="text"/>	Surname <input type="text"/>	Surname <input type="text"/>
Address (in full) <input type="text"/>	Address (in full) <input type="text"/>	Address (in full) <input type="text"/>
Postcode <input type="text"/>	Postcode <input type="text"/>	Postcode <input type="text"/>
Signature <input type="text"/>	Signature <input type="text"/>	Signature <input type="text"/>

Intermediaries claiming commission should stamp the box below

Stamp of intermediary

SRO and Membership Number

TMW448

MWMT is a new investment company formed to provide a diversified investment in quoted mining and metals securities worldwide, which will be actively managed with the objective of maximising total real returns.

MWMT will be managed by the specialist mining team of Mercury Asset Management plc, which is led by Julian Baring.

380,000,000 Ordinary Shares with Warrants attached are the subject of a placing under which irrevocable undertakings to subscribe have been obtained. 120,000,000 Ordinary Shares with Warrants attached are being offered to the public under the Offer for Subscription. The Offer for Subscription has not been underwritten.

Completed application forms must be posted or delivered by hand to New Issues Department, Barclays Registrars, P.O. Box 166, Bourne House, 34 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4TH or delivered by hand only to Barclays Registrars, 170 Fenchurch Street, London EC3 so as to be received by 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 8th December, 1993.

S.G. Warburg Securities Ltd. and Cazenove & Co. are members of The Securities and Futures Authority and the London Stock Exchange.

Availability of Listing Particulars and mini prospectuses

Copies of the Listing Particulars and the mini prospectus are available for collection from the registered office of MWMT and of Mercury Asset Management plc, 33 King William Street, London EC4R 9AS, S.G. Warburg Securities Ltd., 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA, Cazenove & Co., 12 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN and Barclays Registrars, 170 Fenchurch Street, London EC3 for a period of 14 days from the date of the Listing Particulars.

Copies of the Listing Particulars and the mini prospectus are also available for collection from the Company Announcements Office, the London Stock Exchange, Stock Exchange Tower, Capel Court Entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2 for a period of two business days from 27th November, 1993.

MERCURY
WORLD MINING TRUST plc

MERCURY
ASSET
MANAGEMENT

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~~4. MHC-318~~

Firm end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 15. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day December 6. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and pre-earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Bank of Montreal	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Bank of Nova Scotia	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Bank of Toronto	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Bank of the North West	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Bank of the West	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Bank of the South	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Bank of the East	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Bank of the Middle	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Bank of the West	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Bank of the South	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

DRAPERY STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Draperies Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Draperies Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Draperies Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Draperies Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Draperies Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Draperies Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Draperies Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Draperies Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Draperies Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Draperies Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Financial Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Financial Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Financial Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Financial Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Financial Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Financial Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Financial Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Financial Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Financial Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Financial Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Food Products Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Food Products Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Food Products Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Food Products Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Food Products Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Food Products Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Food Products Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Food Products Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Food Products Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Food Products Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Insurance Co. Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Insurance Co. Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Insurance Co. Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Insurance Co. Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Insurance Co. Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Insurance Co. Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Insurance Co. Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Insurance Co. Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Insurance Co. Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Insurance Co. Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Breweries Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Breweries Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Breweries Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Breweries Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Breweries Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Breweries Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Breweries Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Breweries Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Breweries Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Breweries Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Electricals Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Electricals Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Electricals Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Electricals Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Electricals Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Electricals Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Electricals Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Electricals Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Electricals Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Electricals Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Hotels & Caterers Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Hotels & Caterers Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Hotels & Caterers Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Hotels & Caterers Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Hotels & Caterers Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Hotels & Caterers Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Hotels & Caterers Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Hotels & Caterers Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Hotels & Caterers Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Hotels & Caterers Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Industrials Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Industrials Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Industrials Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Industrials Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Industrials Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Industrials Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Industrials Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Industrials Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Industrials Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Industrials Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Investment Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Investment Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Investment Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Investment Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Investment Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Investment Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Investment Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Investment Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Investment Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Investment Trusts Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Building & Roads Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Building & Roads Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Building & Roads Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Building & Roads Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Building & Roads Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Building & Roads Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Building & Roads Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Building & Roads Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Building & Roads Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Building & Roads Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Property Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Property Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Property Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Property Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Property Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Property Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Property Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Property Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Property Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Property Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Mining Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Mining Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Mining Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Mining Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Mining Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Mining Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Mining Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Mining Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Mining Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Mining Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Water Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Water Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Water Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Water Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Water Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Water Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Water Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Water Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Water Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Water Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

TOBACCO

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100	100	Tobacco Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Tobacco Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Tobacco Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Tobacco Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Tobacco Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Tobacco Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Tobacco Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Tobacco Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Tobacco Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0
100	100	Tobacco Ltd.	100.00	0.00	5.5	10.0

BUSINESS SERVICES

923	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
924	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
925	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
926	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
927	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
928	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
929	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
930	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
931	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
932	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
933	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
934	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
935	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
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937	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
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940	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
941	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
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943	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
944	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
945	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
946	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
947	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
948	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
949	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
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952	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
953	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
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956	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
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959	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
960	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
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975	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
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979	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
980	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
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986	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
987	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
988	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
989	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
990	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
991	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
992	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
993	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
994	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
995	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
996	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
997	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
998	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
999	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0
1000	Callison	88	1.0	3.1	10.0	10.0

Crawley follows parallel path on Zimbabwe tour

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

THIS time four years ago, a Lancashire batsman with England ambitions, just down from Cambridge University, was bitterly disappointed to be selected for the A team tour of Zimbabwe instead of for the West Indies trip with the seniors.

At the time, Michael Atherton regarded it as demotion, for he had played twice against Australia earlier that summer, but, as he prepares for the forthcoming trip to the Caribbean as the captain of England, he may reflect less trisically on his non-selection. Despite the occasional detour, he has got where he always wanted to be.

This weekend a parallel presents itself. Had John Crawley turned his useful scores into commanding ones at the end of last season, he would already be a Test cricketer and probably bound for West Indies. Instead, he travels with an encouragingly youthful A team led by Hugh Morris, the Glamorgan captain, to South Africa.

At 22, Crawley is not the baby of the party. Another promising batsman, Malachi Loye, of Northamptonshire, is a year younger and Mark Lathwell, who played two Tests last summer before returning to Somerset chastened if wiser, is not 22 until Boxing Day. Only Lathwell and Dominic Cork, of Derbyshire, also 22, stand to benefit from this tour as much as Crawley.

Similarities with Atherton do not end with Lancashire. Like Atherton, Crawley was educated at Manchester Grammar School, took a 2:1 in history at Cambridge and captained Young England. Both men have interests beyond the boundary, rounded personalities and dissect their own performances in a brisk manner.

Furthermore, they share the burden that comes with expectation. Before he had even got to Cambridge, Atherton was being written up as "Test captain material". Crawley has also been associated with swift promotion. Majid Khan, no less, urged England to look at him when he was here three

DETAILS

SQUAD: H Morris (Glamorgan, captain), A Wells (Sussex, vice-captain), M Lathwell (Somerset), J Crawley (Lancashire), M Loye (Northamptonshire), A Dale (Glamorgan), D Cork (Derbyshire), S Rhodes (Worcestershire), M McCague (Kent), M Bletman (Surrey), M Watt (Essex), R Croft (Glamorgan), P Such (Essex), O Gough (Yorkshire).

ITINERARY: December 4: v Transvaal Invitation XI; 6: v Western Transvaal; 8: v Eastern Transvaal; 10-12: v Transvaal; 15: v Eastern Province; 17-20: v Western Province; 22-25: v Western Province; January 1-4: v Natal; 7-10: v Northern Transvaal; 12: v Griqualand West; 14-17: v Orange Free State; 21-24: v Border; 27-31: v South Africa A.

years ago leading a Pakistan Under-19 tour. Bobby Simpson, the Australian manager, said as much at the end of the recent Ashes series.

With a confidence that falls short of personal arrogance, Crawley does not bother to hide his intentions. Refer to Atherton's progression from sophomore to captain inside four years and remark, joshingly, that he has some distance to cover, and he replies: "That's the idea."

If one applies to cricketers the Rees-Mogg test — outlined in this paper last week — Crawley emerges as a "Hong Kong" man in a game dominated by the "Harrogate" tendency. He is not necessarily a young man in a hurry, but he is aware of his talent and keen to exercise it. South Africa will not provide Test cricket, but it should give him the opportunity to put down a marker for next summer.

Six members of the 14-man



Crawley: rounded

party, managed by Bob Bennett and Phil Neale, have played Test cricket. For Bennett, the Lancashire chairman who has led the last two England senior tours, it is a reversion to his previous job. Neale, the former Worcestershire captain, has earned recognition after a year as Northamptonshire's cricket director.

Whatever the selection, this was always going to be an important tour. It is 29 years since MCC (as England were then known overseas) sent a side to South Africa. This winter's cricket is a prelude to the resumption of a proper Test relationship between the countries, in England next summer.

The selection of only six batsmen suggests that Cork's claims to all-rounder status, as yet largely unproven, will be thoroughly tested. With him at No 6 and Steven Rhodes, the wicketkeeper, batting one place further down, the tour team will be able to accommodate four of the six specialist bowlers.

Four of them were involved in the summer series against Australia and at least two, Peter Such and Martin Bicknell, may feel slighted that they were not retained. Martin McCague, who bowled with considerable pace on his debut at Trent Bridge, lost his opportunity when Devon Malcolm was recalled at the Oval.

For Alan Wells, the vice-captain, it is a return to the land he visited four years ago on the ill-starred unofficial tour, which had to be abandoned. At the time, Wells despaired of being recognised by England and once more he can be thought a shade unlucky not to earn a place on the senior tour.

Morris, one of the game's most popular characters, may also be considered an unlucky cricketer in view of his performances over the past five seasons. He leads a tour which, after three preliminary one-day games in the townships, takes in seven four-day matches and concludes with a five-day "Test" match against South Africa A in Port Elizabeth.



A ball flies hit Slater, on 99 at the time, has already grounded his bat over the line. The Australia opening batsman went on to make 168

Slater runs New Zealand into the ground

FROM PETER ROEBUCK IN HOBART

BATTING in Test cricket can seldom have been as straightforward as it was on a first day in Hobart played under sweltering skies, on a dodgy pitch that may turn later and against an attack that had lost most of its venom, and perhaps its will, before play had begun.

Already denied the services of Crowe and Watson, New Zealand lost Cairns before breakfast and Patel before stumps and it was against a modest attack with much to be modest about that Australia rushed to 329 for two in 90 overs. Slater reaching his first Test hundred on home soil and recording the highest score of his first-class career and Boon, never straying too far as he moved towards another century.

Cairns's withdrawal was a grievous blow to his team and Geoff Howarth made no effort to hide his disappointment. For two days, Cairns had bowled without apparent discomfort and he had been picked to play. At 8.15am he

rang the physiotherapist to say his heel was sore and he could not do justice to himself or his team. Howarth and Rutherford promised to nurse him, then asked him to play as a batsman but Cairns could not be shifted.

Howarth pronounced himself "bemused and a little shocked" by Cairns's conduct. Perhaps the blustery all-rounder is not ready yet to carry the burden of being an outstanding cricketer in a small country.

Without Cairns, New Zealand had the men of a beaten team, especially in a first hour during which they bowled erratically, fielded poorly and dropped two catches. Pocock culpably missing Taylor when he was on ten as he flirted with a short one and Slater being missed by Greatbatch at first slip as he tried to late cut.

In both cases, Morrison was the unfortunate bowler and he alone gave menace to the bowling. Otherwise, New Zealand were fielding a bowling team that a struggling county side might have been embarrassed to put out.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings
M A Taylor c Jones b Su'a 27
M A Slater c Morrison b Patel 168
D C Boon not out 105
M E Waugh not out 19
Extras 105.10.11.11
Total (2 wickets) 339
To bat: A R Border, S W Waugh, I A Healy, P F Reilly, T S A Hay, S K Warne, C F McDermott
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-85: 2-300
BOWLING: Morrison 18-3-53-0, Su'a 17-2-58-1, Patel 15-4-52-0, de Groot 20-5-66-0, Patel 18-3-55-1, Harris 2-0-18-0
NEW ZEALAND: 1st Innings
A R Border c Jones b Su'a 8
C F McDermott c Jones b Su'a 8
I A Healy c Jones b Su'a 8
P F Reilly c Jones b Su'a 8
S K Warne c Jones b Su'a 8
D C Boon c Jones b Su'a 8
Total 64

sliding a drive to gully off the underswing Su'a. His departure heralded the arrival of Boon, a batsman determined to score 100 in the second Test to be played on his home turf (actually he resides in Launceston, from which retreat Hobart is dismissed as a cosmopolitan disaster).

Pretty soon Boon was taking root and it was a surprise that he needed the fortune of a missed stumping, on 65, as he made his way towards three figures. Slater it was, though, who stole the show, dashing to 50 in 70 balls to take Australia to 104 for one at lunch, by which time only one over of spin had been bowled.

After lunch, Slater continued to dominate, driving Morrison through cover on the rise, flicking off his pads and late-cutting regularly. Whereas Boon, Taylor and Border are solid and secure, their strokes streamlined to a fault, Slater carries spectators with him because he lives a little and dies a little with every ball, his brain having not yet risen to the challenge of taking command of his considerable energies.

Soon Rutherford had spread his field and was bowling his trundlers. On 87, Slater had a stroke of luck, a defensive push appearing to land on his boot and end in Rutherford's hands at silly point. Naturally, the benefit of the doubt was given, a reprieve Slater will doubtless set against such mishaps as he falls him.

Mostly he batted with panache against a labouring attack, reaching his hundred in 162 balls and promptly kissing his cap. After tea, with the score at 211 for one, he widened his range of shots further and played a stroke through cover with a knee on the ground, raising cheers from a crowd of 4,054.

Eventually, Slater tried another booming drive to cover and was caught by Morrison, diving smartly forwards to take a low catch. By no means did this wicket perturb Boon, who reached his century in 222 balls in the closing minutes. Mark Waugh had joined him and even he seemed to realise that this was an opportunity too good to waste.

England's plan in ruins

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN KARACHI

ENGLAND'S carefully prepared assault on squash's world title has run into trouble after the team discovered they must face Pakistan in today's semi-finals.

Silver medal-winners last time, England were seeded to win in qualifying pool B and duly did so yesterday with a sound enough thrashing of Sweden, but Jonah Barrington, the England coach, and Paul Wright, the team manager, were noticeably more serious later on as Australia, the defending champions, blended two stunning individual performances, to overturn the hosts 2-1 in front of a packed

and increasingly disbelieving crowd at the Asif Nawaz squash complex here.

Ken Hiscoe, the Australian manager, appreciated a job well-done by his players, which earned them a relatively restful semi-final day. "England and Pakistan are going to be at each other from the first rally," Hiscoe said. "I'll be there to watch it and the longer it goes on, the more I will like it."

England will not be averse to the work involved. Yesterday, Peter Marshall destroyed Frederik Johnson 9-4, 9-0, 9-0 while Philip Whitlock's 9-0, 9-2, 9-2 dismissal of Daniel

Forstlund and Chris Walker's 9-0, 9-5, 9-3 win over Anders Thoren were similarly impressive.

Either Walker or Simon Parke, the England fourth string, could score a win over Zarak Jahan at the bottom of the rubber today, but getting a point from either Jansher or Jahangir Khan after yesterday's humiliation on home ground could have been specially designed as the ultimate competitive test for England.

Then, presumably, there would be the Australians to follow on Monday after they have disposed of Finland in the other semi-final.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Detroit 6, Chicago 10. Dallas 14, Miami 16.

BASKETBALL
EUROPEAN MEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Real Madrid 87, Barcelona 82. (Spain) 64, Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 70, Panathinaikos (Gri) 67, Istanbul (Tur) 62, Barcelona (Esp) 75, Zeynepi (Cui) 60, Cantu (It) 74, Benfica (Por) 65, Bologna (It) 76, Pau Orthez (Fra) 61.

BLINDWISER LEAGUE: Derby 87 (Granger 27, Mervil 28), Sunderland 87 (Sunderland 28, A Hopper 27).

CRICKET
SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Adelaide: Queensland 330, South Australia 295-6 (P Nobles 140). Sydney: New South Wales 352-5 dec, Tasmania 214-6 (D Halse 68, N Courtney 55, M Duvorac 53).

FOOTBALL
UEFA CUP: Third round. First leg: KV Mechelen (Bel) 1, Cuglen (Ru) 2.

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Semi-finals: Group two: Guarani 1, Palmeiras 2. Group three: Botafogo 2, Fluminense 1.

NEVILLE OVERTON COMBINATION: First division: Tottenham Hotspur 3, Bristol City 0. Second division: Derby 6, Colchester 0, Luton 1, Ayr 3.

GOLF
MELBOURNE: Australian Open: Leading second-round scores: Australia: unlisted; 136: O Hazzard-Smith, 67, 69, 137; W Graft, 69, 68, 138; D O'Leary, 69, 69, 138; R Albery, 70, 69, 139; J Woodland, 71, 68, 139; Faxon (US), 68, 74, 142; Hughes (US), 71, 140; B Andrews, 68, 72, 140; P Smith, 67, 72, 139; C Simpson (US), 69, 74, 143; R Fryd (US), 71, 73, 144; A Lytle (GB), 72, 73, 145; G Norman, 74, 71, 145; B Fench, 67, 78, 145; J Payne, 74, 71, 146; S Elangh, 72, 74, 153; C Moody (US), 75, 78, 153; E O'Connor (Irel), 74, 79.

HAMON, Japan: Castle World Open: Leading second-round scores: 134: J Hasegawa (Jpn), 67, 67, 134; F Minoca (Jpn), 68, 67, 135; M Brooks (US), 69, 69, 138; L Lehman (US), 69, 69, 138; K Coover (US), 69, 69, 138; Other scores: 142: C Rocca (It), 71, 71, 142; S Balotacos (Sol), 78, 65.

ICE HOCKEY
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Quebec 8, Los Angeles 6.

RACKETS
QUEEN'S CLUB: Noel Bruce public schools and boys doubles championship. Final: Eon (W Bono) and M Hux Williams (GB), 6-0, 6-1, 6-1; C Bray and M Gooding (GB) 6-1, 6-0, 6-1.

REAL TENNIS
QUEEN'S CLUB: British Land British Open doubles championship. Quarter-finals: R Fisher and L O'Sullivan (Aus) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2; S G. 6-1, 6-1; M Pendry and J Ashworth (Aus) 6-0, 6-1, 6-1; C Bray and M Gooding (GB) 6-1, 6-0, 6-1; C Bray and M Gooding (GB) 6-1, 6-0, 6-1.

SKIING
SANTA CATERINA VALPURA, Italy: World Cup: Women's giant slalom. First leg: 1, 10.05; 2, V Schneider (Switz), 2.18.09; 3, 1.10.18; 4, U. Moller (Austria), 2.18.44; 5, 1.10.18; 6, 1.10.18; 7, 1.10.18; 8, 1.10.18; 9, 1.10.18; 10, 1.10.18; 11, 1.10.18; 12, 1.10.18; 13, 1.10.18; 14, 1.10.18; 15, 1.10.18; 16, 1.10.18; 17, 1.10.18; 18, 1.10.18; 19, 1.10.18; 20, 1.10.18; 21, 1.10.18; 22, 1.10.18; 23, 1.10.18; 24, 1.10.18; 25, 1.10.18; 26, 1.10.18; 27, 1.10.18; 28, 1.10.18; 29, 1.10.18; 30, 1.10.18; 31, 1.10.18; 32, 1.10.18; 33, 1.10.18; 34, 1.10.18; 35, 1.10.18; 36, 1.10.18; 37, 1.10.18; 38, 1.10.18; 39, 1.10.18; 40, 1.10.18; 41, 1.10.18; 42, 1.10.18; 43, 1.10.18; 44, 1.10.18; 45, 1.10.18; 46, 1.10.18; 47, 1.10.18; 48, 1.10.18; 49, 1.10.18; 50, 1.10.18; 51, 1.10.18; 52, 1.10.18; 53, 1.10.18; 54, 1.10.18; 55, 1.10.18; 56, 1.10.18; 57, 1.10.18; 58, 1.10.18; 59, 1.10.18; 60, 1.10.18; 61, 1.10.18; 62, 1.10.18; 63, 1.10.18; 64, 1.10.18; 65, 1.10.18; 66, 1.10.18; 67, 1.10.18; 68, 1.10.18; 69, 1.10.18; 70, 1.10.18; 71, 1.10.18; 72, 1.10.18; 73, 1.10.18; 74, 1.10.18; 75, 1.10.18; 76, 1.10.18; 77, 1.10.18; 78, 1.10.18; 79, 1.10.18; 80, 1.10.18; 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The Times/Olivetti finalists prepare in La Manga for Corporate Golf Challenge

Business fraternity looks for novel annual bonus

FROM MEL WEBB IN LA MANGA

EIGHT months and more than 10,000 rounds of golf after its launch, The Times/Olivetti Corporate Golf Challenge reaches its climax today with the start of the national final at the luxurious Hyatt La Manga Club Resort. The verdict of players, officials and a gaggle of big-name sponsors, even before the action gets under way, is that the competition has been an outstanding success in its inaugural year.

There is, however, one cloud on the horizon. Or, to be more accurate, a whole skyful of clouds. The competitors should have been enjoying some early winter sun in southeast Spain these last 48 hours; thus far, it has stubbornly refused to put in an appearance.

The challenge, the first nationwide golf competition in the United Kingdom aimed specifically at the business community, has four teams of

five from England and one from Ireland in the final. They were flown to Spain by Viva Air, the leisure arm of Iberia, the Spanish national airline, and are staying at Hyatt's five-star Hotel Principe Felipe. They are wearing sweaters and shirts, complete with company logos, presented to them by Lyle and Scott, the leading sport and leisure knitwear company, and will be using



balls donated by Titleist, official ball suppliers to the PGA European Tour.

The Irish were the only team from their country in the Scotland and Ireland regional final at Haggis Castle in Glasgow, where they took on the Scots in their own back yard and beat them — but it was a close-run thing.

The quarter from the North-

ern Ireland Civil Service Sports Association have since been splashed all over their house magazines and local newspapers. They have nobody in their team lower than an 11 handicap and attributed their success at Haggis Castle to teamwork rather than individual brilliance in what was the toughest competition in the five regional finals — only six points separated the leading 14 teams.

They will not have things all their own way if some grimly-determined messages of intent that were banded round the La Manga clubhouse yesterday afternoon meant anything. They all claimed they were going to win, and hand-somely. But then, they would — the average golfer is a competitive animal and the players here are not average golfers, whatever their handicaps.

The other finalists are Medical Investment Group, who won the North final at Fulford, BP Oil UK, winners of the Midland competition at

Collingtree Park, Hall and Coaker, who took the honours in the Southern region at Fushills with the highest winning total of the five finalists with 95 points — and Allied Dunbar, who won the West region competition on a day of rain at Bristol and Clifton.

The final will be run on the same basis as the regional finals — Stableford nil 7/4 handicap, with the best two scores to count on each hole. The one difference is that the competition will be over 36 rather than 18 holes, with one round being played today and the second tomorrow.

The weekend has been enlivened already by the presence of Richard Boxall and Darren Clarke, the PGA European Tour players. Both took part in a long-driving competition yesterday and, after watching Richard Armitage, of Allied Dunbar, hit the amateur best of 310 yards, Clarke lived up to his reputation as a fearsome hitter by driving the ball clean out of the practice range.



Darren Allard, of Hall and Coaker, at practice yesterday

Iwazaki-Smith on his mettle

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN MELBOURNE

DAVID Iwazaki-Smith may not strictly qualify for the title of the iron man from Japan, but, allowing for a little sporting licence, it is as good a description as any of the player who led the Australian Open after the second round at the Metropolitan club here yesterday.

Iwazaki-Smith, 33, from Murrumbidgee, in Victoria, coped with temperatures in the nineties and Melbourne's notorious northerly wind to return a round of 69, three under par, which left him on 136, eight under.

Wayne Grady, the former US PGA champion, revived and refreshed after two months off, is second, on 137, while Greg Norman, much more like his usual perky self, shot 71 to make the cut safely on 145, the same mark as Sandy Lyle.

Iwazaki-Smith, only 79th on the Australian order of merit, was in so much pain from tendinitis a few months ago that his future was in doubt. Visits to physiotherapists and chiropractors proved useless, as did rest.

Then Iwazaki-Smith met Dick Wicks, who was once

wheelchair-bound but is now walking and has made his fortune selling magnetic health products. He now wears elasticated supports on both elbows and 15 little magnets are stitched inside each support.

"The theory is that they attract the iron in the blood and this gets more circulation to the affected areas," Iwazaki-Smith explained. He also has a back support he wears off the course and a variety of bracelets and rings. "You can say it's all in the mind," he said, "but I haven't had any pain for months. They use the treatment on horses and greyhounds and you can't get inside the mind of an animal."

The leader's performance is remarkable on another count. He had no practice round, having had to make two trips to hospital with his pregnant wife, two visits to the doctor with his sick child and two journeys to the immigration department because his in-laws want to move from Japan to Australia. Golf must have come as a blessed relief.

Scores, page 32

Laws in need of revision if screen test goes ahead



GERALD DAVIES

Rugby Commentary

TO what extent can rugby union be thought a part of the entertainment business? It is not an idle question. Such a claim is often made on its behalf these days. As if to reinforce the view, there are those who will take a step further and consider themselves part of the glitzy world of showbusiness and, with a festive season upon us, will tread the boards in pantomime. It is hard to reconcile sporting honour with the likes of Widow Twanky, but there is no accounting for taste.

In New Zealand, where rugby union competes vigorously for audiences with rugby league, there is an admission of searching for the "entertainment dollar". The game must be made more appealing and more accessible. It is television that encourages this. I raise the matter because the four home unions are in the throes, once they all see eye to eye, of offering for tender the contract for televising rugby union.

Yet to what extent can rugby justify the boast that it is an entertainment and not merely a straightfor-

ward contest of physical endeavour that has been promoted primarily in the interests of the contestants. The refrain that has carried for over a century is that it is a player's game, but with television in the frame and with the declared ambition of the International Rugby Football Board to widen the game's appeal, is this any longer enough? To be an entertainment, in the truest sense, rugby must serve the public more.

Does Rugby really have the talent to occupy the observer's time in an agreeable fashion? Entertainers are there to please the whole audience, to win them over to their side, not leave them wondering exactly what went on, as rugby regularly does.

There is no obligation on a rugby player or his team to please the whole audience. His obligation is to play to win, whether by rich pattern or dour. That a rugby match can provide tension and thrills in the last ten minutes does not excuse the absence of skill in the previous 70. That rugby is rough hardly matters. That it is often dull should. All this represents a di-

If rugby is to be a fully integrated television sport, it needs to raise the entertainment factor

lemma rugby needs to resolve. Where does the game wish to position itself for the future? How far afield do the authorities wish to make their appeal? It is not a game that lends itself naturally to television. Whatever the game's technical advisors say about it being a simple game, it can be mystifying to the uninitiated and it is the uninitiated television wishes to attract.

Rugby and television form an uneasy alliance. While the relationship is comfortable enough at international level, it is not so at club level. This is one of the discrepancies with which the four home unions are wrestling. They know that the television companies would prefer, given the chance, to negotiate solely for the rights to international matches. These are big events which provide the excitement television needs to attract the audiences it wants.

This is the negotiating position from which the unions demand a guaranteed weekly programme of club matches of the kind now represented in the form of Rugby Special. Such a programme is less attractive. These are bonuses for rugby but a loss-leader for television. Recently in Wales, an HTV audience-participation game show, Tellyphonin', had more viewers than Rugby Special, which was on at the same time. To introduce live club matches, as has been suggested, might be less of an advantage as they can hardly be defined as entertainment, other than to the hardened rugby follower.

Furthermore, the rugby authorities are uncertain how they should split up what they have on offer and how the fee should be divided. Are the club matches to be included in the way they have done in the past? Or are the club fixtures, cup and league, to be negotiated separately? To what extent are the unions to act in unison in these matters? And it has been further suggested the fee, which was just above £10 million three years ago and distributed in four equal shares, will be at least twice this amount, with England arguing, because it has the largest potential audience, it should be rewarded accordingly.

If rugby is to be a fully integrated television sport, it needs to raise the entertainment factor and for this to happen the laws need to be more easily comprehensible. If it is a mass audience the rugby authorities want, they may have to compromise the game they have known. Otherwise they should lower their expectations.

ALL BLACKS PSYCHED OUT BY ENGLISH HAKA



DEFINITELY A DRY BLACKTHORN DAY.

Saturday portrait: Brian Moore, by Andrew Longmore

England's leader of the pack spurred on by careless whispers

I will surprise only a few to learn that Brian Moore has been angry this week. Angry that, at the age of 31, there is a whisper that he, England's most-capped hooker, is not the player he once was. It is probably better not to mention that to his face. Moore does not suffer fools gladly and anyone who so much as suggests his form is not up to facing the night of the All Blacks at Twickenham this afternoon would automatically be lumped into a category reserved largely for journalists and the committee men of the Rugby Football Union.

As if renewing rivalry with Sean Fitzpatrick, the All Blacks captain, is not enough motivation for one day, Moore feels he is being watched, not just by the millions who have adopted his castellated snarl as the symbol of a new professionalism, but by an influential few who find the face altogether less acceptable.

Most of all, Moore will be out to silence Geoff Cooke, the England manager, who chose three hookers for the squad and professes to be unhappy with all of them.

A touch of psychology, playing on the insecurity and the pride of England's most committed soldier, Cooke knows his man better than most. Yet it is strange that, six years after his international debut against Scotland, Moore should still feel the need to prove himself every minute he is on the field. It is the same in what he calls his "other profession", as a civil litigation solicitor.

Moore himself offers few clues. "I'm no psychologist; I might be a case for one," he said. "I can see how I come across to other people like that and it does bear analysis, but it's not something I'm particularly aware of."

Moore is an adopted child, but is not prone, outside the privacy of his home, at least, to psychoanalyse the fact nor does he give the impression of being haunted by the rejection. He has never tried to trace his real parents, though he said once he had a "quiet desire" to know about them. No more than that.

He is aware, though, of the

confrontational theme which runs through both halves of his life now. "A hooker has a direct battle with his opposite number in the way that a winger, for example, cannot," he said. "I know that the All Blacks at Twickenham, the French away, will be huge battles and I look forward to them. That's the good thing about the front row."

So it is no coincidence that, of all the many branches of the law, he should have chosen the most contentious? "There are parts of the law which are lucrative and challenging, but not necessarily adversarial," he said. "What's attractive about litigation is its adversarial nature. People within law say it requires a certain type of person to be successful at it."

Richard Fleming, the rugby

Deep down, he feels he would have been the England captain too had he gone to a different school

coach at Crossley Heath High School in Halifax when Moore captained the first XV in 1979, recalls a demanding pupil who had a flair for organisation and leadership way beyond his years or his talent.

Fleming's first contact with Moore came in the form of a football unleashed from short range in the school gym. It struck the new PE master like a cannonball and left the same indelible mark on body and mind as Moore's introductions to opposing hookers on the field.

"I thought to myself: 'Here's one to watch,'" Fleming recalled. "I don't think it was intentional. He couldn't kick that hard and keep it straight. But he was a fighter."

At the time, Moore was playing at centre for the school XV in the morning and hooking for the old boys team in the afternoon, an

infringement of the union rules which was also a portent of battles to come. Initially, he was a scrum half, becoming a hooker only by accident at the age of 16. At 14½ stone, he is still small for the job, by modern standards, but his time outside the scrum has benefited his handling and his mobility.

"He was not an outstanding player, no better than many others who came through the school, but he had an ability to lead," Fleming said. "He would say: 'I'm in charge' and nobody would have any doubt about it. I could be away and leave a training session in his hands, knowing he would do a superb job."

It is still the same. Moore wants to direct the traffic, wherever he is, which is a source of frustration in his international career.

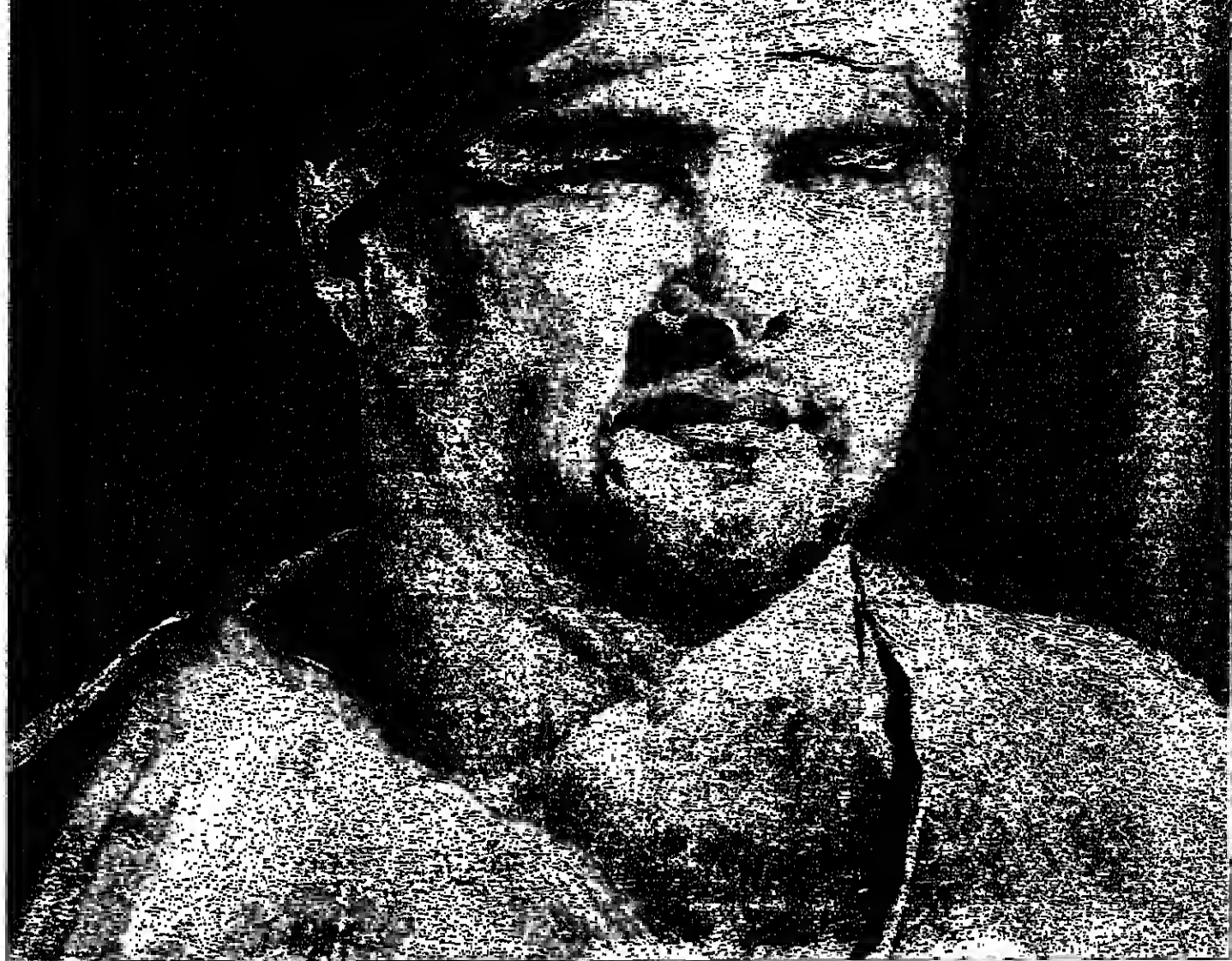
Only by proxy have England benefited from his qualities. Moore is the pack leader and, deep down, he feels he would have been the captain too had he gone to a different school, talked differently and tried harder to make friends in high places.

Instead, Moore has been the most trenchant and eloquent critic of the regime which, on the one hand, has promoted an era of professionalism and, on the other, denied the players their rewards. It is not a matter of whether the players want to become professionals, he argues — most do not — but whether they should have the choice.

He is a union player speaking with a league voice; a strong streak of the Methodist work ethic, the product of his religious upbringing, pervades his thinking. Rugby, like life, is a very serious business; not a gentle romp for the chaps.

"The only people who believe otherwise are those who want to use it as an argument for amateurism," Moore said. "Everyone knows that, at international level, that is not the case. People often ask if there are any funny moments in the game. Yes, there are, but not on the field."

"Internationals are hard, fast and brutal up front. It's bloody hard work. The satisfaction and the fun come afterwards in a job



well done and a win achieved." Even his fun is fully committed, judging by some of his post-match antics.

One other insight comes from John Oliver, the Northampton hooker who has been Moore's understudy for much of the past five years. "I've got a lot of time for him," Oliver said. "We're good friends, but I don't think, if the roles had been reversed and he had to watch me play from the

bench, he could have taken it. That says something about him. I'm more laid back. His greatest attribute is his single-minded toughness."

In media terms, that quality has been joyously translated into a portrait of Moore the Hard Man. From his northern background to his gap teeth, Moore is perfect for the role: mean and ignorant of fear. But opinion is divided over whether he has actively encour-

aged the image with his Vinnie Jones gestures of defiance. If so, he is beginning to tire of the whole thing.

"Don't use the phrase 'tough guy,'" he said. "It's embarrassing more than anything. I'm not going to step back from anything, but nor is anyone else. Nobody is going to be intimidated at this level."

But, more than anyone, Moore has played the iron fist in an

England team which, for too long, was all velvet glove. Two grand slams, two Lions tours, a World Cup final, 45 caps and the unavowed hostility of the rugby authorities have been his reward. And, whatever happens unseen inside the scrum this afternoon, he has his sights set on the World Cup in 1995.

He should be there, too. When all the talk is done, he is just a great bloke to have on your side.

Dooley's absence weakens Preston

By DAVID HANDS

LIFE continues elsewhere, even if most roads lead to Twickenham today. Some famous names grace the third round of the Pilkington Cup while Neath are seeking to recover the leadership of the Heineken League by beating Pontypridd at Sardis Road.

Wade Dooley, the former England lock, must sit out Preston Grasshoppers' cup match at Coventry because of a knee injury and his club will do well to succeed against the cup-winners of 1973 and 1974, who are lying third in the third division.

Not that league success

Nick Popplewell, the British Isles prop, will miss Leinster's inter-provincial match with Ulster in Dublin today because of damaged medial ligaments in his knee.

proved an great benefit for Bedford when Bradford and Bingley dismissed them from the cup in the second round. Bradford's reward is a home tie with Fylde, the most successful northern-based club in the third division and playing an attractive brand of rugby that should take them through to the fourth-round draw on Tuesday, when the first and second-division clubs are included.

In the southern half of today's draw, two clubs who have known better days, Rosslyn Park and Plymouth Albion, meet at Rochampton

while Blackheath have moved their tie with London Welsh to tomorrow to avoid a clash with the televised international between England and New Zealand.

Blackheath's match will be preceded by the presentation of a cheque for £5,000 to the Royal Marsden Hospital, raised by club members cycling from London to Brighton. If Mickey Skinner, the former England flanker who will present the cheque, can whip up the same tenacity among his players then London Welsh, whose form in the fifth division south has been inconsistent, may struggle.

Neil Jenkins, the Welsh centre and the highest scorer in the Heineken League, comes face to face with another successful goalkicker, Paul Thornburn, as Pontypridd try to stay in touch with the leading four clubs. Jenkins already has 132 league points this season, while a single conversion will take Thornburn to his season's century.

Greg Prosser, the Pontypridd lock, who was sent off against Llanelli a fortnight ago, has been cleared to play against Neath because his disciplinary hearing has been postponed until next Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Swansea, having regained first place in the division, should hang on to it against Newbridge and give a debut to Shane McIntosh, the New Zealand centre who has joined them from West of Scotland.

Bracken capable of making powerful first impression

Rob Andrew, the England stand-off half, on the task presented by the All Blacks



The All Blacks tour reaches its peak at Twickenham today. It has become clear to me and many others that their visit has been made too easy.

The teams they have met have not prepared well enough to make their lives difficult. New Zealand regarded this tour as an opportunity to begin the construction of a new side for the 1995 World Cup without Kirwan, Fox, Jones and, as it has turned out, Robin Brooke or Senness.

We have managed to make their rebuilding process much easier than it could or should have been. They must be very happy because they have rarely been stretched. Only today are they facing a match they know they could lose. One such game on a tour is not enough.

I do not think the clubs are ready to play them. Therefore the divisions should have been allowed more time to prepare. London, for example, should have played an early warm-up fixture, then all three division-

al games, followed immediately by the All Blacks, which would have been a fifth game in a row. We have to look closely at how we prepare ourselves for important tours here. The British Isles tour to New Zealand last summer was much more difficult and that is a lesson we have to learn.

England play the All Blacks today missing three members of the British Lions international side: Martin Bayfield, Jerry Guscott and Dewi Morris. Our task is sizeable, but we are not short of confidence because, if we get everything right, we have the ability to beat them. Yet the level of our performance will have to be high.

For me, there is the challenge of finding a new face alongside me at scrum half.

Kyran Bracken and I will play our first match together at any level against, of all sides, New Zealand. Yet that probably does not make as much difference as people might think. Kyran's basic skills of passing and kicking are excellent and, as long as he stays calm and performs those basic skills well, he will not have a problem. It is crucial you get your basic skills right because there is so little time at international level.

In the unstructured part of the game he could do something I am not expecting, but Kyran is very level-headed and well organised. He thinks a lot about what he is doing with his game.

He has already played against New Zealand twice on this tour but he has not experienced this type of high-

pressure situation before. I hope the rest of team is organised well enough that it can slot in around him. In a match of this kind, all you have to focus on is your own job. You do not have to cover for anybody because they are good enough players to do their own job.

A substantial part of the half-backs' role is to calm things down and organise the play. Kyran is new to the role at this level and in a similar position to me when I was chosen for to play for the Lions in the second international against Australia in 1989. I had never played a match with Robert Jones before, but I sensed in training things would be okay. I do not think there will be a problem here either.

This match is a fresh start for England, who are looking ahead to the World Cup. It is a new side and an exciting one. Maybe it is inexperienced, but there is a lot of talent and I hope the supporters will get behind us.

Armstrong back at scrum half

By ALAN LORIMER

GIVEN what happened at Murrayfield last Saturday, when Scotland were overwhelmed 51-15 by New Zealand, Gary Armstrong may have had more than foresight in going to take time out from international rugby. Yet with an appearance for the Barbarians against the All Blacks in Cardiff next weekend promised and selection for South of Scotland likely, Armstrong's break from the higher reaches of the game could be brief.

Today, Armstrong, the erstwhile Scotland scrum half, is in the No 9 jersey for Jed-Forest, who face West of Scotland in the McEwan's League match at Riverside.

This will be Armstrong's first league outing at scrum half since he took the decisive step of informing the Scottish Rugby Union that he did not want to be considered for the Scotland team in that position. Since then, he has played at inside centre, stand-off half and, latterly, full back for Jed-Forest in their McEwan's and Bank of Scotland Border League games.

Jed-Forest, at present fourth from the bottom of the first division, need Armstrong back at scrum half. It is also true that Armstrong needs his club to be the catalyst in a change of thinking about his immediate future in international rugby.

Meanwhile, at the top of the first division, Melrose, the leaders, have had to postpone their match with Boroughmuir because of frosty conditions at the Greenyards pitch. This, no doubt, will be a relief

to both sides, who are missing key personnel through injury. Injury is still preventing Gregor Townsend from appearing at stand-off for Gala, but the talented youngster is likely to turn out for his club next week after recovering from a fracture in his hand.

Elsewhere, Heriot's FP, the joint-leaders, face a difficult match against Currie at Mallow Park. Any slip by Heriot's would benefit Stirling County, the club in third place, who should be favourites to win at Bridgehaugh against Hawick. This match, however, could fall victim to the cold

Top of table

	P	W	L	F	P	Pts
Melrose	7	8	0	1188	88	12
Heriot's FP	7	6	0	1183	84	12
Stirling Co	7	5	1	1183	81	11
Gala	7	5	0	2173	110	10

conditions affecting most of Scotland. Postponements are the last thing the championship organisers need at this stage of what is an already overcrowded season.

Marcel Martin, a director of Rugby World Cup Ltd, in Hong Kong on a fact-finding visit following the decision to stage the 1997 World Cup sevens tournament there, said that only the holders, England, the beaten finalists, Australia, and Hong Kong, as hosts, will qualify directly. The 58 other teams affiliated to the International Rugby Board will contest 21 available places.



THIS AFTERNOON, WHO'D WANT TO BE IN ENGLAND'S BOOTS?

OPEN
YOUR
MIND



ALL THE ALL BLACKS WEAR MIZUNO BOOTS.

هكذا من الأصل

New Zealand new boy is romantic at heart

Wilson's wing wizardry gives him dream choice

David Hands meets
Jeff Wilson, who
lines up today for his
first international
at Twickenham

JEFF Wilson is the stuff that dreams are made of. Or, if you are Scottish, nightmares. Wilson is the New Zealander who has scribes groping for their comic-book memories of *Wilson of the Wizard* last week when he scored three tries and kicked a goal on his rugby union international debut at Murrayfield. Today, he brings his talents to Twickenham.

In looks, Wilson, 20 last month, is very much in the modern idiom and already the conventional All Black attitudes spring readily from his tips. Yet, underneath it all, Wilson is a romantic — he dreams too. Anyone who claims Serge Blanco as their most-admired rugby player has to have a vision for the game beyond the ordinary.

"I guess you're allowed to be a dreamer on the wing," he said. "I admire players who make things happen, who can create — like Blanco, like Campese." It is no coincidence that both played at full back, even though the latter's fame is as the most entertaining wing in the world. Wilson — "Goldie" to his team-mates, short for "Golden Boy" — would prefer to play full back, but rests content with his place on New Zealand's right wing against England.

There he can be compared with some of the great three-quarters who have graced New Zealand teams in the past. During this tour, similarities have been drawn with Grahame Thorne and Brian Williams. Two players who, as teenagers, made a startling impact in the mid-Sixties and early Seventies. There is, of course, another with whom he bears comparison, the man who occupied the right wing against the British Isles during the summer — John Kirwan from Auckland, North Island, while Wilson is from Invercargill, in the deep south.

Like Wilson, Kirwan appeared for the All Blacks before his twentieth birthday. In other circumstances, the two might have toured together this autumn. That would have afforded an intriguing comparison of styles: Kirwan, all smorting, uncontrolled power and speed like a runaway horse; Wilson the more contained player, both with a big sidestep, which, in Wilson's case, baffled three Scottish defenders a week ago.

Wilson would have enjoyed the chance to draw on Kirwan's experience, too, but the



Jeff Wilson, the latest exceptional All Black wing

selectors decided otherwise. Not that Wilson has modelled himself on any other individual: "I try to build a game of my own. My heroes are the real athletes — Michael Jordan, Carl Lewis." That puts rugby firmly in its place.

Wilson betrays a maturity beyond his years in another sense, too. He must know as well as anyone that commercial opportunities beckon for the young and talented sportsman these days, yet he remains firm in his mind that he will return to his teacher training course in Dunedin.

"It's on hold momentarily, but there's no way I'm going to stop trying, it's what I want to do. After all, anything can happen in sport." On hold is right: when Wilson returns

home, the cricket season will be in full swing and he will be plunged into provincial matches in his summer sport, at which he has so far appeared in four one-day internationals, performing with bar and ball.

Pakistan are due to tour and, later next year, New Zealand's cricketers visit England. That is when Wilson must make up his mind whether to be a muddled oaf or a flannelled fool, since New Zealand's 1994 rugby programme incorporates visits from France and South Africa.

Wilson has manfully fended off questions about his sporting future, although his success in Britain and Laurie Mains's persuasive tongue may prove an effective combi-

nation on behalf of rugby. The problem has been apparent for some time at Cargill High School last year, he scored 66 points from nine tries and 15 conversions in one rugby match and played senior provincial cricket before his school days ended. It is an odd quirk that the last dual international to have played cricket and rugby for New Zealand, Brian McKechnie, was also a full back from Southland. Perhaps it is something to do with the bracing air?

Wilson's burgeoning talents embrace both sports: "I love playing soccer, though I don't take it seriously. Baseball, softball, basketball, I love the competitiveness of it all — though I don't like swimming. I'm a stone. If you ask me, man wasn't made for water."

Wilson, though, seems made for rugby. Against London at Twickenham five

"When you play with guys this good, they create the space, they create the opportunities for you. And then it is up to you to use them"

weeks ago, he collected two tries, neither of them difficult but both made to look easier by the concentration he applied. He kicked goals against the North, scored a runaway interception against England A and then came his memorable hat-trick against the Scots.

Those tries were just finishing off, with one involving a bit of footwork, he said rather too dismissively. "That's all there was to it. When you play with guys this good, they create opportunities for you, they create the space, you know where the gaps are because you've trained for it and it's up to you to take them."

"The Scotland game's over. If I keep looking back at that, it will affect my performance on Saturday. That's the new challenge. I saw Rory Underwood playing for the Lions in New Zealand and he played very well, he's quick, he's got good skills. It's up to me to work out what he does, where his weaknesses are and whether I can exploit them."

This is Wilson very firmly in All Black mode. Yet this is the man whose favourite recent films are *Field of Dreams* and *Robin Hood*, *Prince of Thieves*, two Kevin Costner epics. Somewhere inside the black jersey is a romantic trying to escape.

Gerald Davies, page 33

All Black dismissal that soured opening encounter

BY DAVID HANDS

THE first game between England and New Zealand at Twickenham, on January 3, 1925, was notable for the wrong reason: under the gaze of King George V and doubtless a horrified Rugby Football Union committee, Albert Freethy, the Welsh referee, sent off Cyril Brownlie, the All Blacks' forward, after an altercation between the packs.

The *Encyclopaedia of New Zealand Rugby* primly observes that "perhaps Brownlie was unfortunate to be singled out as the prime offender" but his colleagues, including brother Maurice, did not let his loss upset them: despite playing against one of the most successful England sides of the era, they won 17-11 and Maurice Brownlie was among the try-scorers.

The two countries had met earlier, in 1905, when Duncan McGregor scored four of New Zealand's tries, but that was at Crystal Palace. Eight years later, Tom "Tiger" Lynch, a brilliant three-quarter, scored three tries on his international debut against Australia, the last New Zealand player to achieve that feat until Jeff Wilson against Scotland last week.

England's biggest winning margin against New Zealand was achieved in the 1936 game at Twickenham, the 13-0 success which will always be remembered for Alex Obolensky's two tries, the second a crossfield run by the Russian prince against the grain of the New Zealand defence.

Their only other victory at Twickenham was that of 1983 against the All Blacks, led by Stu Wilson. It was the culmination of a studied campaign by the divisional sides which played a touring party lacking five first-choice forwards and the talented scrum half, David Loveridge.

DETAILS

Twickenham results
1925: England 11, New Zealand 17
1936: England 13, New Zealand 0
1954: England 0, New Zealand 9
1964: England 0, New Zealand 14
1967: England 11, New Zealand 28
1972: England 0, New Zealand 9
1978: England 6, New Zealand 16
1979: England 9, New Zealand 16
1983: England 15, New Zealand 9
1985: England 12, New Zealand 18

Basketball hands out rough justice in court

RECIPROCAL sporting myths: Americans believe cricket is a boring game played by cissies; Brits believe the same thing about basketball. Sporting truths: in cricket, unlike baseball, it is permitted — indeed, sometimes considered essential — to hit the batsman with the ball. And basketball is a game of physical confrontation; do not believe a word of the guff about it being a non-contact sport.

Ask Isiah Thomas, or Bill Laimbeer, for that matter. Both play for Detroit Pistons in the National Basketball Association (NBA) of the United States. Laimbeer's principal role is that of enforcer: a player voracious for the rebound, a man of his elbows who fractures ribs and breaks noses. Thomas is the Pistons' superstar and one of the top scorers in the NBA: every team should have one, for basketball, more than any other game, is the perfect vehicle for the superstar.

Laimbeer is a competitive man, even in practice. During a recent Detroit practice session, he got an elbow in on Thomas, breaking a rib and keeping Thomas off the court for several games.

A few days ago, Thomas returned to the team's active list. Back to practice, then. Once again, he was roughed up by Laimbeer. This time, it became a little too much. Thomas was not so much hurt as angry, so he punched Laimbeer in the head. Laimbeer, clearly invulnerable in that area, was unhurt. But Thomas suffered a broken shooting hand: he is out of the game for an unspecified period.

Sorry state

More on elbows, and the disturbing case of John Fashanu, elbow, and Gary Mabbutt, elbow. Terry Burton, Wimbledon Football Club's assistant manager, managed to show at least as much clumsiness as Fashanu with his statement on the subject: "We are all greatly concerned about Gary and, particularly if the injury turns out to be more serious than was first thought, we will be sending our condolences." I trust that such a step will not be called for.



SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

City exchange

Sydney on Melbourne: boring, provincial, backward, sports-mad because there is nothing else to do there. Melbourne on Sydney: slick, superficial and filled with the detritus of the international community, a place without real values. Melbourne blew its hopes of the 1996 Olympic Games with a brilliantly-timed tram strike: Sydney is the site of the 2000 Games.

But this is not exactly a wain-shall-meet situation. Kevin Gosper, Sydney-born, a vice-president of the International Olympic Committee and inevitably a crucial part of the 2000 organising committee, has been appointed to run Melbourne. He will chair the committee of four that replaces the recently disbanded Melbourne city council. "I think it's a wonderful opportunity to serve two great cities," he said.

Joint saving

The knee is always a crucial joint for religious people and God, I gather, has cured the dodgy knee of Pat Cash, the man with the horrible headband who won Wimbledon back in the Pleistocene. "Having Jesus on your side is one helluva person to have in your corner," he said, contradicting himself at least twice in this short space. But nothing contradictory about the results, as reported in the Catholic paper *The Universe*. Cash, who has been off the circuit for more than a year, went to a healing service conducted by Monsignor Michael Buckley. "He held my knee in his hands," Cash said. "It was something very special. It gave me a lot of confidence that everything would be okay." Cash, a lapsed Catholic, is now unimpaired and he plans a tennis comeback next month.

Flaw show

It is getting to that ambrosial tawny port time of year again. My recent piece on David Gower and the nature of wayward genius prompted a letter from John Manuel. Of the national Wayward Genius Club, he writes: "To qualify, the nominee must have transcended the heights and plumbed the depths."

He nominates Denis Compton, whose "negotiations for taking a run were legendary". Henri Leconte, for his ability to "play like God and then disintegrate". Keith Miller, "for scoring a superb duck when he refused to take part in Bradman's massacre of Essex in 1948". Fred Couples "for gloriously throwing away a US PGA championship". And Jimmy White, "for always calling a foul when not even the referee has seen it". I am sending a bottle of Calém Colheita 1962 to Mr Manuel and I offer more ambrosia to further nominations for the Wayward Genius Club.



On Parade

South Parade was a handicapped hurdler who retired from racing with an injury. He went on to become, of all things, a police horse, clapping the streets of London with the Met. Obviously, this is the perfect way to rehabilitate. Recovered and fit, he is back in training as a racehorse. Toby Balding has him: "He's done plenty of roadwork, anyway."

TOURIST INFORMATION

NEW ZEALANDERS AVOID TWICKENHAM TODAY



Official suppliers of sports footwear to the England Rugby Football Union.

Bradford's rise eclipses Leeds

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

EAST of the Pennines, the rugby league stronghold is shifting from Headingley to Odsal. Success and ambition, once the preserve of Leeds, are these days more closely associated with Bradford Northern.

It is Bradford who, for the second year running, are spearheading the Yorkshire challenge in the Stones Bitter Championship. More than £300,000 has been spent on bringing in Paul Newlove and Paul Dixon. Crowds are up significantly and, fanciful though it sounds, a proposal to put a sliding roof over the pitch shows the visionary thinking running through a resurgent club.

At Leeds, the money has apparently dried up. Spectators, angered by the club's worst start for eight years, are voting with their feet. The attendance last weekend, 6,482 for the home match with Leigh, was just over half last season's average.

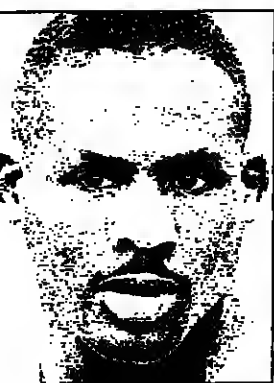
The contrasting fortunes of the two sides will be assessed tomorrow at Valley Parade, the home of Bradford City Football Club. A "superdome" might be the way to combat the fog that invariably hangs around Odsal at this time of year, but, after the abandonment of the game with Wigan last week, Bradford are taking no chances by switching the venue.

If home is not quite where the heart is, Bradford Northern are, nevertheless, in buoyant mood. They have lost to Hull Kingston Rovers and, heavily, to St Helens, in their last outing, but these were explainable aberrations and, in eight league wins, they have

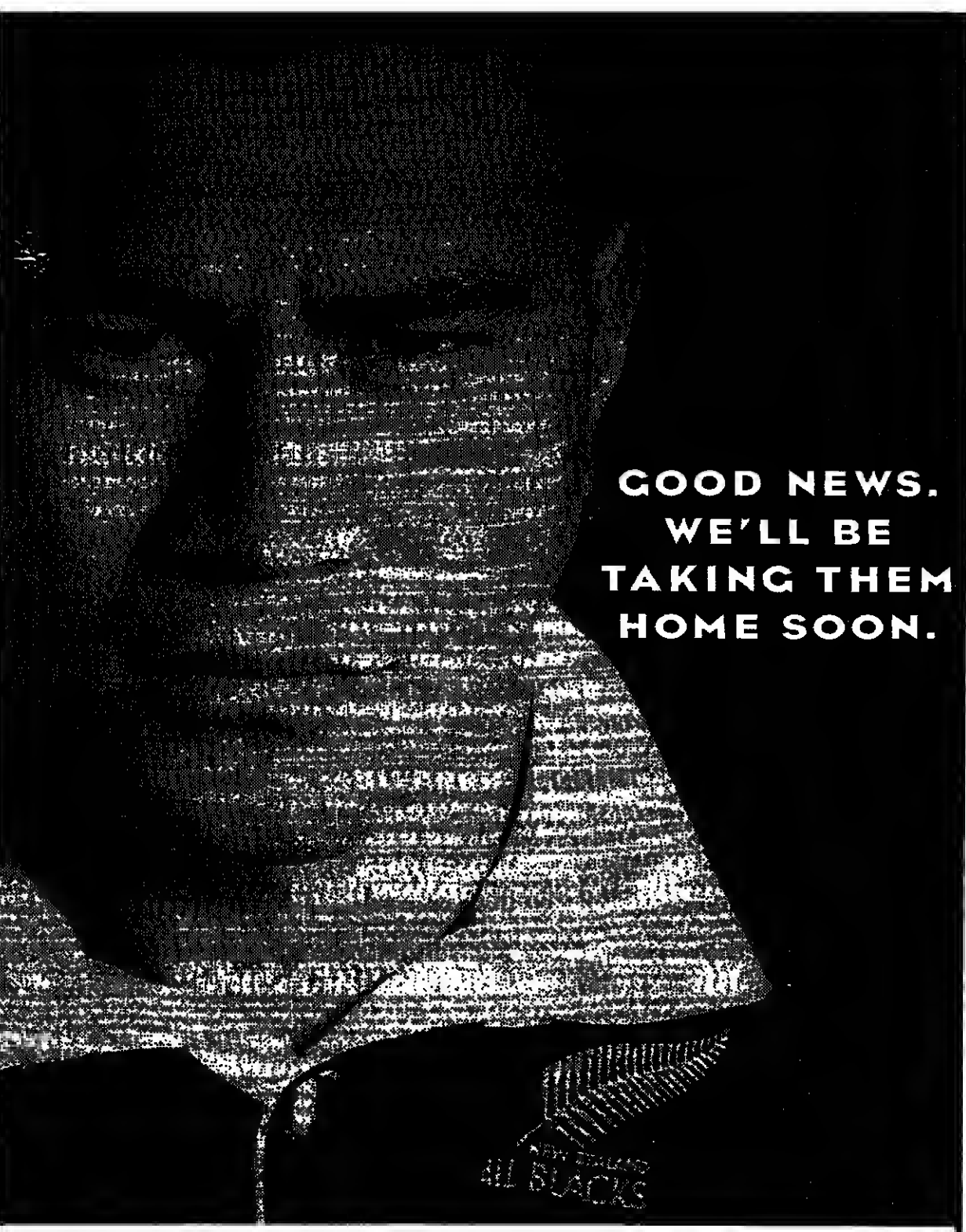
grown in stature as the side has settled. Leeds' win against Leigh was their first for two months. There was little to suggest it was the start of something new. Although restored for his first full game for six weeks, the return of Ellery Hanley fails to remove the makeshift impression about the side.

Following the sale of Andy Gregory to Salford and the foot injury to Gareth Stephens, Leeds at last have an established scrum-half — Jason Donohue was finally signed on loan from Leigh yesterday until the end of the season — but an immediate encounter with Deryck Fox, Bradford's outstanding playmaker, looks an uneven contest.

As well as Bradford, Castleford and Wigan will hope to maintain their challenge at the top of the first division at home to Wakefield Trinity and Oldham respectively. Warrington, with two more points, should maintain that advantage with a win at Sheffield Eagles.



Hanley: restored



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US confident league will flourish after circus leaves town



Rothenberg, happy

The sceptics continue to say it cannot work, that it will not happen. Alan Rothenberg, president of the United States Soccer Federation, is confident it can and will. Next month, he will reveal details of the new professional league that will be propagated by the finals.

Sure, the sceptics chorus goes, the finals will draw temporary big crowds because the ethnic Euro-American groups, Italians, Germans, Irish and others will come out of the woodwork along with the Mexicans and, when the circus leaves town, they will disappear again and United States football will lapse back into anonymity beneath a traditional preoccupation with domestic American baseball and American football. The difference now is that there is a new adult ethnic group enthusiastic for soccer, Americans.

"The growth over 15 years has been phenomenal," Rothenberg, a Los Angeles lawyer in Century City who was the football commissioner at the 1984 Olympic Games,

said. "There is now a generation [of Americans] who played the game who are parents. That's totally different from when the NASL [National American Soccer League] started and even to some extent when it folded in the early Eighties. The NASL did depend on the curiosity of Euro-Americans in the likes of Cruyff, Beckenbauer, Marsh and others."

Today, a survey by the sports goods manufacturers association estimates there are 16 million active players in the country and a spectator-interest band, including players' families, of about 60 million. The potential audience commercial capacity to support a professional league unquestionably now exists.

On December 4 in Chicago, the United States Soccer Federation (US Soccer) will finalise its proposals to be put to Fifa on December 17 in Las Vegas, following the draw for the finals: a 12-city league for the 1995 season, April to September, that will later climb to 16 clubs. "It is important not to be too



David Miller is in Los Angeles finding out how Americans are preparing for second-coming in professional football

ambitious too soon, the way the NASL was," Rothenberg, who was involved with the Aztecs during the brief spell of Cruyff, said. "That grew from eight to 24 teams in three years or so. Now, I'm confident that we can guarantee the television exposure that will generate the necessary public interest and sponsorship backing."

For the 1994 finals, there are 30 leading sponsors of the tournament and the American team. Of these, several, such as Coca-Cola and Anheuser-Busch, are already committed to support of the projected league and a secondary group, involved in soccer for the first time, such as McDonald's and General Motors, regard the experience as beneficial and, according to Rothenberg, are "very receptive to extending their support". The remainder are in the World Cup for a one-shot deal.

A key to both the "national-awareness" success of the finals and the projected league is the agreement by American television not to interrupt the 45-minute continuity of normal soccer, which killed the widely-rumoured intention by Fifa to introduce the "four-quarter" match.

With the finances of the World Cup secured by television/sponsorship deals outside America, US Soccer was concerned in the sale of American television rights to gain exposure more than cash. An ABC/ESPN consortium bought the rights for a relatively modest, approximate £17 million with standard 30-second advertising slots before and after the match and during half-time.

"During the matches, we gave them three alternatives for ads during play," Rothenberg said. "Either temporarily reducing the action screen within an outer frame carrying advertising, or a moving 'crawler' across the bottom, or an elapsed time clock in the bottom corner surrounded by the advertisers logo. They chose the latter. We weren't looking for money but exposure [of soccer] and we have achieved that."

At the draw ceremony, the group placing and match venues will be determined arbitrarily by Rothenberg, together with Guillermo Canedo, the vice-president of Fifa from Mexico, on stage immediately after the group draw has been made. Of the six seeded teams — United States, Germany, Italy, Argentina, Brazil and Belgium — only the Americans (twice in Los Angeles, once in Detroit) and Germany (twice in Chicago, once in Dallas) have fixed first-round venues as respective hosts and holders.

What Rothenberg would self-evidently wish is to align Euro-

pean, South American and Asian teams in cities with large ethnic followings: for instance, Italy in New Jersey adjacent to New York, Ireland in Boston, South Korea in Los Angeles and Brazil, for geographical proximity, in Florida.

Yet since there has to be separation of the two north-central American finalists, the United States and Mexico, whatever group contains Mexico cannot be in Los Angeles. The next best for Mexican supporters would be northern California (Palo Alto in San Francisco) where there are also many Italian-Americans, which would be suitable if Mexico and Italy are together, allowing the group containing Greece to be in New Jersey. And so on. The permutations are many and the venue draw will be determined basically by the group draw.

What is sure is that, with almost two thirds of the 3.6 million tickets already sold and the unsold portion being easily disposable in the later matches, the tournament is likely to be a sell-out.

Trautmann keeps alive memory of City slickers

BY PETER BALL

IN NOVEMBER 1953, Hungary inflicted the worst defeat England have suffered on their own soil, winning 6-3 and starting an orgy of soul searching about the state of English football. Almost 40 years on, Holland ended England's World Cup hopes to produce another round of recriminations.

One interested spectator on both occasions was Bert Trautmann, one of the greatest goalkeepers in the game's history and a man who played his part in the only serious English attempt to accommodate the Hungarians' tactics as well as learning from their superior techniques.

Trautmann, who returned to Manchester this week to mark his seventieth birthday, attend a charity dinner and spend a day signing copies of his biography (*Trautmann*, by Keith Rowlands, Breedon Books), was one of the great romantic figures of football in

it took a visit to Manchester Royal Infirmary, four days after the final, and another set of X-rays, to reveal the truth. "You should be dead," Professor David Lloyd Griffiths, the orthopaedic surgeon, told Trautmann. The second vertebra in his neck had cracked in two.

Trautmann returned to the City team in December and continued playing for another eight years, devoting his athleticism and huge, safe hands to keeping a series of poor Manchester City teams afloat and revelling in the hurly-burly of the goalkeeper's lot in those unprotected days.

"Against Trevor Ford or Nat Lofthouse you were prepared for the physical contact and it was fun," he said. "There was the odd niggly forward, but you just gave him one back."

Behind the romantic figure is a sharp mind and he harbours few illusions about the team he played for, City approaching the heights only briefly in his 15 years with the club. "Managers had no idea about tactics then, but we players talked about the game and the Revie plan came out of watching Hidegkuti."

City, with Don Revie as a deep-lying centre forward, for a brief period in the mid-Fifties offered a rare example of English footballers digesting continental practices. "English football needs more skill, more intelligence and it needs leaders, personalities," Trautmann said. "You have to have the water carriers, but you need three or four to lead, to guide."

Unfortunately, when they do exist, they tend to be ignored, as Glenn Hoddle remarked this week. It is not a new phenomenon, as Trautmann could tell him.

In 1966, the German FA, knowing Trautmann's popularity in England, decided to appoint him as their liaison officer for the World Cup. The English FA had already appointed one of its legion of schoolmasters.

The German FA insisted; the FA resisted. Impasse. Finally the FA played its trump card. "But do you realise this man is a professional?" Denis Follows, the FA secretary, asked his German opposite number.

the post-war era. A German prisoner of war, he stayed in England and became one of the country's most-admired sportsmen, the first goalkeeper and the first foreign player to be voted footballer of the year.

He won that award the week before he broke his neck in the 1956 FA Cup final, diving at the feet of the Birmingham City forward, Peter Murphy, 17 minutes from time. Trautmann was knocked unconscious. Revived by smelling salts, he was in great pain. "He was reeling around the goalmouth like a drunk," Roy Paul, the City captain, recalled.

But in the days before substitutes, Trautmann insisted on staying on. After the game, still in pain, he attended the banquet celebrating City's 3-1 victory, before going to St George's Hospital for an X-ray. That showed nothing and



Back in Manchester this week, Trautmann with a reminder of his days with City



Trautmann, extreme right, with his team-mates after winning the FA Cup in 1956

Coventry await Cantona bundle of tricks

BY KEITH PIKE

STATISTICS do not always do justice to genius, but when Eric Cantona steps out at Highfield Road this afternoon, Coventry City's supporters know the likelihood is that their team will be swept away on a tide of French flicks and flamboyance.

It is 12 months to the day since Cantona continued his nomadic football existence with a move across the Pennines from Leeds United and, while a year in the provinces with Manchester United has done nothing to spoil Cantona's image as one of the sport's great entertainers, the records show that his productivity is equally impressive.

When Cantona's self-proclaimed love affair with Leeds ended in divorce and tears on the terraces at Elland Road, Manchester United were eighth in the Premier League, nine points behind Norwich City and without a win in seven games. Goals were like gold dust.

Since then, United's league record reads: P41, W30, D8, L3. They have scored 52 times — Cantona's contribution standing at 14, with numerous assists — won an overdue championship and now stand 12 points clear of Blackburn Rovers.

"He has given us a new dimension," Alex Ferguson, their manager, said yesterday. "He is playing marvellously well again and has completely confounded the critics who said he was trouble."

One of Cantona's goals came in the 5-0 mauling of Coventry at Old Trafford last December and Phil Neal, the newly-installed manager of the Midlands side, readily acknowledged his side's task: "They gave us a footballing lesson that day," he said. "Cantona is one intelligent beast of a footballer, but we have some special players here too, like Peter Ndlovu and Roy Wegerle, so it could be an exciting encounter."

□ Bristol City, the first division club, has been fined £40,000 by the Football Association and ordered to pay £8,000 costs over claims made to the Football Trust in respect of ground improvements at Ashton Gate. Leslie Kew, the club's former chairman and an FA councillor, has been suspended from all football activities for nine months from December 10, and ordered to pay £2,000 costs.

Newcastle's hearts quietly won over by goals of Cole

BY ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ON TYNESIDE, the magpie becomes the people's hero through the regularity with which he steals goals to crowded penalty boxes. Andy Cole, who came up from the south half a year ago, is responding to the challenge of wearing the Newcastle United No 9 shirt in style: his 34 goals in 29 games make him as big a goal thief as any in the Magpies' history.

Twice this week, Cole has heard the roar of 36,000 in St James' Park, the people finding the money from somewhere, and he has found four more goals for his tally. It is the essence of Geordie sport: a centre forward getting goals out of nothing and the crowd worshipping him.

Watching him from the new Milburn Stand, which is named after one of Newcastle's greatest centre forwards, one senses the return to times when the shipyards and the pits resounded to the deeds of the No 9. Jackie Milburn died without seeing two of his dearest wishes: a genuine successor in his own image and a time when the Newcastle crowd and the players were again a unit. He would have loved young Cole.

Cole is similar to Milburn in stature, slender and swift, and, as Milburn did, he defies defensive responses to his acceleration. Cole has what Milburn had — a clean, quick, unfussy knack of putting the ball in the net before opponents even sniff the danger.

In footballing terms, Cole needs to stay another decade to be Milburn's equal. In human terms, he has already begun a new dimension. Cole is black. Newcastle's first black star. In his present form, he is doing more than any campaign to tackle the racism that has lingered among Newcastle United supporters. Before Sunday's game against Liverpool, Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, gave an address over the public system: "It is a firm commitment of this board to stamp out racist chanting. I make no bones about it, anyone apprehended will be banned for life."

Laudable, but quickly forgotten. Cole had scored three times in the first half, feeding off the cunning and vision of Peter Beardsley. This instinct to surprise constantly, even when all around know who you are and what you do, is a

gift that Cole, just 22, shares with the great finishers of modern times.

Yet he has felt lonely in Newcastle, so lonely that a month ago there was a fear that he would be sold to return south to the friends and family he has in London. At the hint of it, 2,500 Geordies tramped to the training ground in Durham just to let him know that there was affection for him.

Temperament is the lingering doubt over Cole. In action, there is no question that he has the coolness of nerve, the ability to transmit ideas from the brain to the feet in a detached manner while panic reigns around him. But Arsenal had rejected him after an apprenticeship that lasted one senior game and it was to Bristol City that Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, paid £1.7 million last



Cole: local hero

spring. By also paying £1.2 million for the 32-year-old Beardsley, Keegan added fuel to a chairman trying to whittle down the £6 million debt at the club. Yet, the affinity for these signings was such that even before the kick-off for the new season, more than £4 million-worth of replica shirts had provided some of the finance for their deeds.

Nobody has yet dubbed Cole "Wor Andy", but his strike rate, more than a goal every game, is double that which produced 178 goals in 354 League games from 1946 to 1957 for "Wor Jackie" Milburn. When they buried Milburn five winters ago, more than 20,000 people lined the streets. Some of us can hear his thoughts: "I hated being parted from it. Give any man the No 9 shirt, let him score goals for Newcastle, and the people will love him."

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Buxton steps up after Butcher dismissal

By Louise Taylor

TERRY Butcher was dismissed as Sunderland manager yesterday morning, two hours before the man who dismissed him, Bob Murray, resigned as chairman.

Mick Buxton, the reserve team coach at Roker Park, has been given the manager's job until the end of the season. Buxton takes charge for the first time at home to Nottingham Forest today.

Sunderland supporters — who threw bricks through the boardroom window after last Saturday's home defeat to Southend — are unlikely to be inspired by Buxton's appointment. He takes over a struggling team two points off the bottom of the first division after six successive defeats.

Although the decision was taken at a board meeting on Wednesday, Butcher, 34, only learned of his fate yesterday when journalists told him as he arrived for training. "I've had a go but it never worked out," the former England captain said.

Last year, Butcher lost his job as Coventry's player-manager after a short spell at Highfield Road and his nine months at Sunderland have been little short of disastrous. After avoiding relegation by one point last May, he spent more than £2 million on five summer signings, but the team has continued to lack shape.

Buxton, 50, played at full back for Burnley and Halifax and has been manager at Huddersfield and Southport United. His appointment ends speculation linking Graham Taylor, Terry Yorath, Bruce Rioch, Colin Todd and Steve Coppell with the Sunderland job.

Murray, who has a 60 per cent shareholding in the club, will remain as a director. Murray took over the chairmanship in 1986, with the club deep in debt.

His finest moment must have been Sunderland's appearance in the 1992 FA Cup final, though he also presided over the dismissal of four managers: Lawrie McMenemy, Denis Smith, Malcolm Crosby and oow Butcher. Murray's ambition of relocating the club to a £70 million stadium at Washington remains, as yet, unfulfilled. The new chairman is expected to be named shortly.



Butcher dignified



Bracken, the Bristol scrum half brought in as a late replacement, looks forward to making his debut for England against New Zealand at Twickenham today

Cards stacked against England

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND enter their Twickenham today: a new Twickenham stand, a new team to play the most demanding opponents the world of rugby union affords — New Zealand. At least they have one element in their favour: they are due a victory this year since they beat the All Blacks in 1973 and 1983.

But the cards are stacked against them. This is a New Zealand team which has been reverted to traditional introspective mode for what they see as the focal point of their tour. A win at Twickenham ensures the success of the whole tour and, in all probability, of the selection panel, whose appointments for the coming year will be considered by the New Zealand Rugby Football Union council next month.

Everything points to an All Black victory in the Save and Prosper international and, in all probability, an unbeaten tour in consequence. They have the form, the confidence, the proven skills against an England combination disrupted by injury and an inability on the part of too many players in domestic rugby to summon up the commanding form which will be required to win today.

Many of England's players returned from the British Isles

tour to New Zealand last July believing that, even if the red-shirted Lions could not win a series, the white shirts of England could. That confidence has been eroded and for the first time in many a day, an England team will play before its own crowd as underdogs.

That, though, is where they may derive their greatest source of inspiration. The biggest Twickenham crowd for a generation will spur them on from the leaping tiers of the new East Stand, which the Scots, with their half-finished stadium, so obviously lacked a week ago.

Earle Kirton, the New Zealand assistant coach, emphasises that as one of the debuts for his side, along with the touring team's requirement to raise their game for the second time in eight days: "It's awfully hard to lift players twice in a week, particularly when they have played well and feel self-satisfied," the former stand-off half, who helped New Zealand beat England at Twickenham in 1967, said.

A New Zealander self-satisfied? Listen to Sean Fitzpatrick, the captain: "Everything we have done goes out the window if we lose. They have nothing to lose and we have everything to lose. I'm sure we have to play a lot better than last week and the pressure is very high."

Yet the fact remains that the All Blacks are on a roll. Back in May, they were searching for a team and developed one against the Lions. They refined it against Australia and Western Samoa, only to lose four vital links before beginning the tour — Grant Fox, Michael Jones, John Kirwan and Robin Brooke. The tour itinerary gave them the chance to experiment, to fill the gaps, to reconstruct.

"I think they are the best team in the world at the moment," Geoff Cooke, England's manager, said. Best in

terms of results, certainly, best at spotting and taking chances, best at stopping opponents playing. They have conceded 20 penalties per match on the English leg of their tour, testimony to their ability to break up an opposing team's pattern legally and sometimes illegally.

The unknown factor is how England will play. The composition of the team suggests a structured game. That will permit Kyran Bracken, the Bristol scrum half, who learned less than 48 hours ago that he was to play, the chance

to settle into his first international. Then there is the big back row, the stand-off half kicking for position, the optimism that All Black strengths can be neutralised — the buzz word among the England management is "opposed". England carry more than 12st advantage in the forwards, which can be used to draw the sting from their opponents.

Moreover, all England's players have felt the All Blacks at work. They know, as Dick Best, their coach, tells them, that when they have tackled and tackled, then they will have to get up and tackle some more. But they will also have to be mentally aware, notably at the lineout where their resources must be carefully managed.

The Scots, a week ago, were not and New Zealand swiftly gained an actual and moral ascendancy at the lineout. England field two front jumpers and two tall flankers and one of the fascinations will be to see how Nigel Redman, that honest forward, and Martin Johnson conspire to beat the threat posed by Ian Jones and Jamie Joseph. Where will Tim Rodber take up his station and will it affect what the back row tries to do as a unit?

For England need to do more than "oppose" New Zealand at their own game. They must seek the open spaces so that their runners can demon-

strate that they are quicker. That, though, is easier said than done with a side coming together for the first time. Yet England's emerging players showed last Tuesday that the ball could be carried to New Zealand.

They would also enjoy putting the squeeze on the All Blacks half backs: "If we can put Marc Ellis under more pressure than Scotland did, then we will see what he is made of," Cooke said. Exciting though the selection of Ellis is, at least it may spare Jonathan Callard the kind of searching examination under the high ball which Grant Fox might have instigated. Ellis prefers to run.

However, Callard remains a vital player on his debut, not only for his all-round footballing skills as a full back but as a goalkicker. If the All Blacks are punished for infringements as accurately as Paul Grayson did for the North, they will be less inclined to concede penalties and England may have more ball to run at them.

Callard must kick his goals. Will Matthew Cooper be available to kick them for New Zealand? Eroni Clarke will play centre if Cooper's groin strain rules him out. Wilson will then become first-choice kicker.

Gerald Davies, page 33
Wing wizard, page 35

Mabbutt seeks no redress over injury

By Keith Pike

TOTTENHAM Hotspur football club will take no action over the challenge by John Fashanu that left Gary Mabbutt, their captain and central defender, with head injuries. Osvaldo Ardiles, the Tottenham manager, said that the club fully supported Mabbutt's request not to pursue the matter.

Mabbutt was recovering yesterday from an operation on his injuries, sustained after six minutes of Tottenham's FA Cup Premier League match against Wimbledon on Wednesday. Mabbutt, hurt by Fashanu's elbow as they challenged for a header, has had a metal plate inserted above his cheekbone and further surgery to an eye socket.

"I am respecting the wishes of the player and the fact that he wants the matter dropped shows what kind of person he is," Ardiles said. "He has horrific injuries, but after the operation the surgeon was very positive."

Sam Hammam, the owner of Wimbledon, accused Tottenham of "trying to discredit" his club and Fashanu by exaggerating the extent of Mabbutt's injuries. However, Tottenham claimed the player was lucky to retain sight in his right eye.

In a statement, the club added that Mr David James, the surgeon at Princess Grace Hospital who spent more than two hours operating on Mabbutt, used titanium metal and screws to rebuild the floor and side of his eye socket.

The statement added: "Dr Brian Curtis, Tottenham's medical officer for 30 years, and Mr James both confirm that the injury sustained is classified as a fracture of the skull."

John Lyall, the general manager of Ipswich Town, has followed Don Howe's lead by saying he would not be interested in becoming caretaker manager of England while the Football Association seeks a permanent successor to Graham Taylor.

Aston Villa have been fined £20,000 for a breach of FA rules over the signing of Mark Bosnich, their Australia goalkeeper, from Sydney Croatia. The club must also pay £15,000 towards the hearing.



Mabbutt recovering

Fitzpatrick to set world record

By David Hands

TWICKENHAM today returns to something near the capacity of 72,000 that used to be the norm during the 30 years following the Second World War, before the replacement of the old south terrace with the existing stand. A sell-out crowd of 68,000 will watch England play New Zealand now that the new East Stand has been completed. It is the first time it will be in use for an international.

Of that crowd, 41,000 will be accommodated in the North and East stands, which are now one continuous structure. The committee meeting of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) yesterday was confidently expected to give formal approval for work to start at the end of this season on the reconstruction of the West Stand.

The East Stand alone, without considering the facilities contained in it, cost £12.5 million and a new West Stand is projected at £15 million, though the ancillary services required on that side of the 83-year-old ground would lift the figure to £27 million. A far cry from the £5,572 12s 6d, which the RFU paid in 1907 for the ten and a quarter acres of land that, on

January 15, 1910, played host to its first international, against Wales.

Today's game will be worth around £1.4 million to the RFU and, if the game's supporters have found difficulty acquiring match tickets, so, too, have the corporate hospitality companies who have found rugby a lucrative outlet. One such company was understood to have ceased trading yesterday, while two more have been forced to advise their clients that they could not guarantee them tickets.

Those with tickets for the first meeting between England and New Zealand since the opening match of the 1991 World Cup (which the All Blacks won 18-12) will find colour-coded directions on how to gain access to their seats in the new three-tier structure. Those without tickets will have been less than pleased to hear that a pair of top-priced stand tickets, worth £30 each at face value, could fetch as much as £1,000 on the black market.

The All Blacks, who played at Twickenham in their opening tour match against the London Division last month, returned

to the stadium yesterday to familiarise themselves with the conditions. Only four of them, including Sean Fitzpatrick, the captain, took part in the 1991 fixture, while England's turnover in the last two years leaves only six survivors.

Fitzpatrick, playing his 54th successive international — a remarkable achievement for any player let alone one who plays at the coal face of the game, as hooker — will establish a world record, overhauling the 53 consecutive games of Gareth Edwards, the Cardiff and Wales scrum half between 1967-78.

It will be Will Carling's 36th game as England captain, five years after his first, which was also against a Southern Hemisphere country, Australia. On that occasion, England won a match which in retrospect, was the beginning of three successful years.

Seven of England's players shared in the 20-7 victory by the British Isles against New Zealand in Wellington in June, including Rory Underwood, the try-scorer that day who now extends his record of England appearances to 61.

Taylor's Port
BEST taken Seriously

Taylor's Port
BEST taken Seriously

RACING 36-37
BLACK HUMOUR
BRINGS A SMILE
CHARLIE BROOKS



ENOCH POWELL
Angels from the
relams of glory
The heavenly host, page 12



HATTIE ELLIS
How the experts
plan the revels
Call in the party planners, pages 8,9



STAGE-STRUCK
First taste of
the footlights
Children in amateur panto, page 11

**LONE
YACHTSMAN
REPORTS**
Page 18

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27 1993

3

Me and my bra, from AA to DD and back again

Despite male fantasies, the history of the bra is a history of discomfort. With first-hand knowledge, Libby Purves laments the lot of the bow-fronted woman so desperate for relief that she will brave the surgeon's knife

They have, apparently, developed a fine metal fibre with a "memory" and are thinking of using it in a Smart Bra, which would "remember the exact shape of the individual woman's breast". This could be bad news. After all, nine women out of ten would rather forget it. If our bras have to have an *idée fixe* in their fibres, we would prefer them to think of Bardot, circa 1959. The very existence of the bra is a tribute to our pious hope that mere fabrics can augment or suppress our frontage until the original is nothing but a bad dream. The last thing we want is some metallurgical smart alec remembering it for us.

The relationship of woman and bra is a turbulent and intimate one, varying through life between grateful affection and sour familiarity. Its intensity varies with shape: ironically, the teenagers who pester for their first 28AA generally do not need it, whereas large breasts are foisted by malignant nature on tomboyish girls who resent most bitterly the flop and bulge of them, and the bite and slither of the bra-strap on shoulder and midriff. But the more you hate your breasts, the less inclined you are to buy them expensive presents, so resentful bra-buyers suffer for their neglect. They bulge out sideways, or rattle around in hammock cups, or suffer the weals of too-narrow straps and the cruel prod of escaping underwires. In my student days, I once spiked a dancing partner when a semicircular wire crept up through my lace tank-top. It was the age of bra-burning, and I briefly considered putting it to the torch there and then; on the other hand, as a friend gloomily said: "Why is burning your bra supposed to liberate you? Without mine, I'd be rooted to the spot." (The scrawny school of feminists never did understand the trials of their busty sisters. Even the dungaree craze was a calculated insult to those of us who pushed the boob out farther than average.)

Find a bra that is not a trial and your brand-loyalty will be fierce. Just as flat women embraced the Wonderbra with passion, more convex ones wept tears of gratitude on being introduced to the majestic Triumph Doreen, with its industrial-strength straps and underarm panels that could quell a civic insurrection. Corsettières inspire even more devotion: there is a

Jewish seamstress in the East End whose name is passed on like an amulet from one well-endowed woman to another in times of pregnancy. She is the Red Adair of the 44DD, the only hope of control for a girl who started out big and gets bigger every month. Apart from her, the only hope is that in hospital you will meet an old-



A peculiar exhibition recently featured the fantasy creations of several dozen sculptors. There were twin brass taps, flying birds, grasping hands, rubber sink-plungers, mountains of fruit pastilles, and clustered pan-scrubs



fashioned sister who knows how to build an extraordinary structure of elastic bandages called a "binder". A major source of post-natal depression is having to give it back to the NHS and look steadily for the first time at the twin Big Tops sold to you by some disdainful stick-insect at Mothercare. That, and the National Childbirth Trust's advice to pop a couple of tea-strainers inside to get air to the nipples. Sometimes, as Tammy Wynette sang, it's hard to be a woman.

The situation is not much helped by men's fascination with bras. (Do we care about their jockeys? We do not.) A peculiar exhibition assembled recently by an Italian fashion pundit, Samuele Mazza, featured the fantasy creations of several dozen sculptors. There were twin brass taps, flying birds, grasping hands, rubber sink-plungers, mountains of fruit pastilles, and

clustered pan-scrubs, symbolising everything women mean to men. I keep the catalogue on the coffee-table and have discovered that men (and quite a few flat-chested women) rather enjoy the symbolism: while women over 36C ignore this aspect in favour of close technical criticism as to whether the plungers have thick enough shoulder-straps, and the likelihood of the twin-kettle model giving you back-ache.

Much more congenial reading is Rosemary Hawthorne's *Bras*. Following her seminal volume *Knickers*, it traces the development of our friend from the ancient Greek leather *strophium* worn by women athletes, by way of the whalebone corset, to the explosion of inventiveness in the 20th century which brought us the bandeau, the non-slip "Venus" of 1920 with "built-in tug points", the Kestos, and the devising of A, B, C and D cups — colloquially known to 1930s commercial travellers as eggcup, coffee cup, tea cup and challenge cup. The tendency to falsify nature has always been there: *The Times* snickered in 1799 that "the fashion for false bosoms has at least this utility — that it compels our fashionable fair to wear something". Tee hee, chaps. Patent Bust Improvers, "amplifiers" and inflatable cups were a staple of early advertisements; although Mrs Hawthorne reports that the inflatable cups were discouraged for air travel. They exploded at high altitude.

Parallel to the search for inflation has run the search for diminution. Breasts are all very well, but they can stand between a girl and her chance of being taken seriously. 1920s flappers wore tight elastic bandages to be flat-chested, and they are not all that uncomfortable. When I was a full-blown 19, I played a 12-year-old prince in *Richard III* on stage at Oxford and nobody believed their eyes. I wore the flatteners for weeks at tutorials, just to worry people. Men got silly and kept saying, "It seems a shame". It seemed paradise, to me. And America, original home of the androgynous aerobic career woman, has long cherished its "minimiser" technology. Apart from anything else, fierce flattening makes it a lot easier to run for a bus. So-called "sports" bras only work for athletes already exercised into untraditional female shapes. Putting a stretchy sports bra on a



Rubens figure leads to nothing but trouble. Think what happens to waterbeds in an earthquake.

It is, I suppose, woman's lot. But I have to confess that after a lifetime of carving your front around, you can lose patience. Reader, I know about these things: I grew and grew through motherhood, to the point that I lost two stone after the second baby and found to my disgust that my cup size remained constant at E. Or it might have been F. Or GBH, a special category for the kind that hit you in the face when

you roll over in bed. No seamstress was up to it: having finished tailoring option. After prolonged and giggly consultations on the telephone with Katie Boyle (My dear! You end up with a pear exactly like the sign on the Crown and Anchor pub — they put the nipple in a saucer...), I researched plastic surgeons. Some were more plastic than others: call me old-fashioned, but in my view no gentleman draws with a felt pen on a lady's nipples without asking permission.

Another clearly got too much fun out of slicing up women's fronts; a third asked "Do you want lippo at the same time?" Finally I found a proper doctor, a jocular Aussie, and gave him the money. He told me that reduction is the only cosmetic operation that shellas never complain about afterwards: and the only one regularly undertaken by those who think cosmetic surgery is dead naff. He was right. Sitting up 7lb lighter, I felt groggy, stiff, scarred, and entirely wonderful. Back home, I burned

my most tyrannical bra with grave symbolism in the domestic hearth. As I twisted up newspapers to light it, I noticed that some Madonna-loving fool on the fashion pages was yet again announcing that "Breasts are back!"

Hal Mine won't be back, not ever, not even in nightmares. Good riddance. I saved my time as earth mother, and deserve to spend my declining years able to turn over in bed without a fork-lift truck. And to forget, every now and then, to wear a blasted bra.

London auctions
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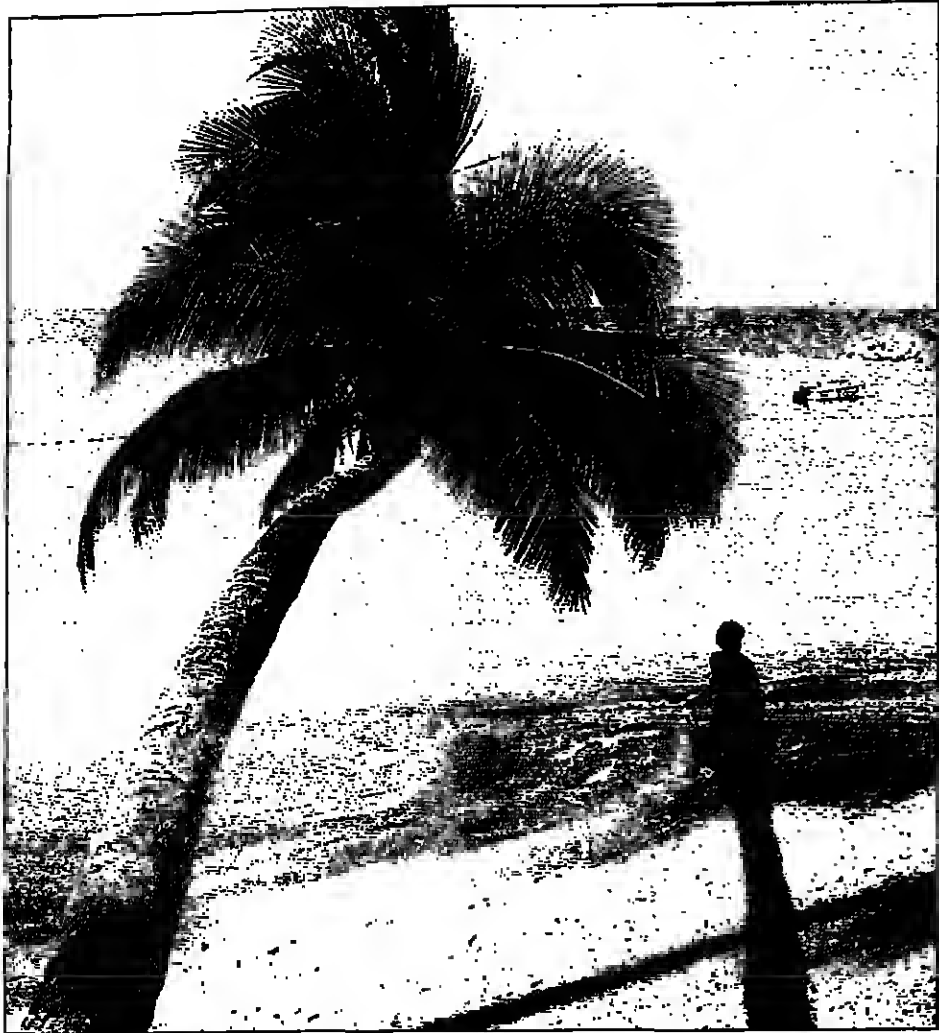


Our Winter season of Impressionist, Modern & Contemporary Art auctions take place at Sotheby's London, 34-35 New Bond Street, as follows:
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If the season of goodwill sends you running for your suitcases, here is a variety of ideas for a quick getaway

Making the great Christmas escape



Gather round a Christmas tree with a tropical difference on Antigua

West Indians will turn practically anything to a reggae beat, but one of their best creations is reggae Christmas carols. Imagine "Good King Wenceslas" sung on the off-beat, in a lilting West Indian accent. Carol singing is just as popular in the British Caribbean islands as in Britain — but when the singing is finished, the singers head off to a beach party.

There has never been a flake of snow in the Caribbean islands, of course. Perhaps it should be the sand that is deep and crisp and even.

Christmas in the Caribbean has its roots in the European celebration — you will see Santa Claus sweltering here in his red suit and beard, and Christmas dinner is still turkey followed by plum pudding. But there are exotic variations on the European theme — Christmas pudding is steeped in rum rather than brandy. Sorrel is the special Christmas drink — a bright red concoction laced with rum and ginger. In Puerto Rico whole houses and gardens are festooned with tinsel, and people set up nativity scenes with gaudy, life-sized mannequins on their front lawn.

Christmas day itself tends to be a family occasion, but Boxing day is a long series of parties. If you make friends with some West Indians, you may well be invited. Some islands stage special events, which are usually well worth attending.

In Montserrat and St Kitts they put on small carnivals, with calypso competitions, costumed street parties and nightly jump-ups. In Jamaica and the Bahamas there are "junkanooes", in which masqueraders dress up, with horses

and masks to spook the children. St Vincent has nine "mornings" (also involving parades and dances) in the nine days before Christmas, and in Puerto Rico there is a major blow-out to celebrate the Festival of the Innocents, on December 28, during which the whole town of Hatoillo dresses up and parades riotously in the town square.

The most spectacular New Year's eve party in the Caribbean is on Jost Van Dyke, in the British Virgin Islands, where up to 300 people join the party on the sand at Foxy's Beach Bar.



Festive fare, Barbados-style

Barbados and Antigua are among the best known and most accessible Caribbean islands. Well organised for Christmas breaks, both have excellent white sand beaches. In Antigua fun bars are found around the historic naval station of English Harbour, and on Sunday afternoons at Shirley Heights, a huge party celebrates the sunset.

Barbados has some very elegant restaurants in charming waterfront settings. Most attractive are Carambole on the west coast, and Pises on a very pretty white deck in St Lawrence Gap where, after your Creole flying fish and Christmas pudding, you can stagger on to a string of busy nightclubs.

Book soon, it's a popular destination.

JAMES HENDERSON

Guideline prices: *Elegant Resorts* (0244 329671), 14 days from December 22 in Antigua for £2,400 (flight and room only; half-board £43 per person per night). *Caribbean Connection* (0244 341131), seven days from December 20 in Barbados for £1,515 (includes flight, room and breakfast).



Helisking in Canada, where Christmas is the low season

Dreaming of a white Christmas? Global warming and a mass exodus to the Alps mean that no resort can guarantee good snow and uncrowded pistes over the holiday period. Yes, there is perennial snow on the glaciers of Zermatt, Verbier and Val d'Isère and eight glaciers in Austria. But these glaciers cannot handle the busloads from less favoured resorts in times of poor snow.

Where can you go where it has already snowed six feet, where you get a guaranteed 80,000 vertical feet of untracked powder-snow skiing?

The answer is helicopter skiing in the Monashee and Cariboo mountain ranges of British Columbia, Canada.

To have a helicopter lift you to a remote area, drop you and then meet you at your destination, ready to start again, is not cheap. But the surprising news is that Christmas and New Year periods are low-season budget weeks at Mike Wiegels's 3,000 sq mile heli-ranch — most heliskiers prefer to ski in the February sun.

Christmas in Canada can get cold, minus 30C, but the light powder snow can also be over your head. Mr Wiegels is the only operation to offer free unlimited vertical skiing over the Christmas period. Elsewhere an extra \$14 is charged for each 1,000ft skied over the 100,000ft "norm". In practice, this represents a value of £250.

Mr Wiegels is also the first in the industry to answer safety concerns by reducing the number of skiers per helicopter and adding an extra mountain guide.

Alpenglow painting rosy fingers across the peaks as you return to your log cabin in the Canadian wilderness. Sumptuous meals of Alberta beef, hot tubs and massage après ski. Powder snow and never, ever a lift queue. That is my idea of a white Christmas.

DOUG SAGER

Ski Scott Dunn (081-767 0202) can arrange seven-day packages to Mike Wiegels's. All meals, accommodation and helisking for £2,015, not including flights.

One way of taking the hard work out of a family Christmas is to spend the holiday at a country house hotel that caters for children. Here are some that fit the festive bill.

The Bath Spa Hotel.

Bath, Avon (0225 44424) The hotel will run its Christmas house party from the afternoon of Christmas eve until the morning of December 27, with festivities including a masked ball on the final evening. The hotel has a professionally staffed nursery, open daily and free to guests, in a lodge within the grounds. The Kennet and Avon Canal is nearby, with boat trips available over the holiday.

The holiday package costs £597 per person. There is no charge for children under five

sharing the room. The charge for older children is £120 per room (possibly for two children) per night, food extra.

Calcut Manor.

Therbury, Gloucestershire (0666 890391) Set in pretty countryside and just off the A46, this converted farmhouse offers two-night packages at Christmas and new year in family suites for two adults and two children at £500 and £460 respectively. All meals and festivities are included for adults, but the children's menu is extra.

Whitechapel Manor.

South Molton, north Devon (0769 573377) On the edge of the Exmoor National Park, and minutes from the A361, this quiet country house hotel charges between £98 and £160 a night

for a double room, plus £10 per child in the same room. There are two dinner menus at £26 and £37; lower prices for the children's menu.

Sunlaw House, Kelso.

Roxburghshire (0573 450331) This is a small Scottish castle — Bonnie Prince Charlie stayed a night, they say — in 200 acres and owned by the Duke of Roxburgh. Lots of open fires, luxury, good food, staff baby-sitters and a genuine welcome for children. Christmas packages (arrive December 24, leave on the morning of December 27) are from £360 to £450 per person. Call for child reductions.

Maes-y-Nedd.

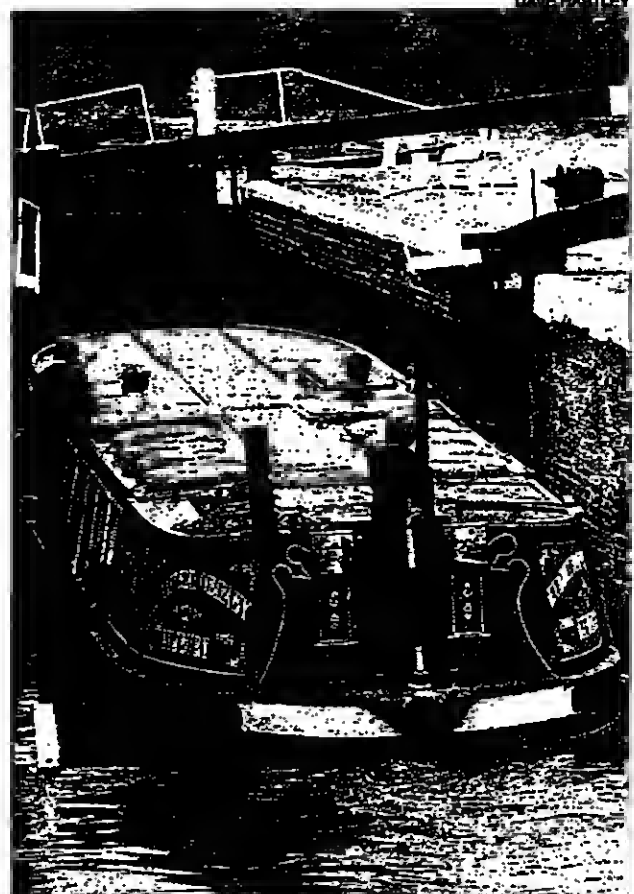
Talsarnau Gwynedd (0766 780200) An ancient manor house in Snowdonia, surrounded by

spectacular scenery. Children over seven are welcomed and, if staying in their parents' room, pay only for meals. Full-board Christmas package for two adults and child sharing from £590 from Christmas eve to the morning of December 27. The nearby Ffestiniog mountain railway runs trips over the holiday.

Combe House.

Gittisham, Norfolk (0404 42756) This Elizabethan mansion in 3,000 acres is full at Christmas (check, though, for cancellations) but is holding a dinner dance on New Year's eve at £45 a head. Room and breakfast for two costs £92 a night (minimum two nights). Extra child bed £20 a night, cot £10.

FRANK JEFFERY



The tripper barge Avon on the Kennet and Avon canal

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A NEW ERA IN THE WORLD OF CRUISING

فكرنا من الأصل



Cressida Bell in the Hackney workshop where she creates her hand-painted furniture — "I cost £250 a day, but I am very quick"

Furnishing fantasies

In Hackney, east London, aficionados who combine a love of modern art with a passion for painted furniture can pick up pieces such as a bench in gold and red Catherine wheels for £800. This is the work of Cressida Bell, the grand-daughter of Bloomsbury painter Vanessa Bell, who has been painting furniture in the Charleston tradition since she was eight.

With a flamboyant, formal, patterned style which says "art" not "paint finish", Ms Bell is much collected by media types. Because she designs fabrics too, and sometimes crabs her own patterns for furniture, you can, if you desire, wear the scarf, walk on the rug, lounge on the cushions and sit on the bench of the same Bell design.

Ms Bell will jazz up any old furniture that comes her way — the benches were unwanted props from the London Colosseum, for instance. She will also paint to commission. "I cost £250 a day but I'm very quick," she says.

Her creativity is a good way of adding value to junk pieces. Television producer Jamie Muir has a coffee table and standard lamp, both meticulously sanded by his father Frank Muir for Ms Bell to paint. Her brother-in-law, Bill Nicholson, author of *Shadowlands*, has just ordered a puppet theatre in red and gold. Malcolm Sinclair, who appeared in the BBC's *Scarlet and Black*, claims he collected his telephone, table, mirror and kitchen shelves by being first through the door at Ms Bell's studio sales and making

an offer for anything lying around. His Bell shelves are lined with pottery by Sophie McCarthy, another Bloomsbury scion. "I'm not a Bloomsburyite," says Mr Sinclair. "I just like Cressida's ability to mix colours you think won't go."

Does Ms Bell trade on the Bloomsbury label? An American newspaper owner anticipated just that when he asked her for a bedspread to match a Vanessa Bell painting and a lampshade by Ms Bell's father, Quentin, but didn't get quite what he expected. "It began as Bloomsbury and then they let me get more and more me-ish," she says.

She ended up repainting the room, including a grand piano, with scrolls of mock music lying open on the top and paprika red inside. Then there was a pop-up television cupboard, painted in baroque drapery.

It is her own style, but with the family name, her furniture will increase in value and keep its interest long after paint effects have faded. For antique collectors, painted furniture from Venice, hidden for more than 200 years, goes on sale next week — and the man who rediscovered it insists that it has sex appeal. "Venetian furniture is sexier than French," says Patrick Syz, 31, who is holding the sale in his tiny Belgraveia flat. "It has joie de vivre. Painted

Jane Furnival on painted furniture, from Hackney and Venice



Mid 18th-century Venetian wig chest decorated in blue

chairs with edges carved and painted like frills are more comfortable than French antiques of the same age, which are so sharp that women snag their thighs on them."

The collection of chairs, mirrors and cupboards, never seen before outside their maker's studio and a few imposing *palazzi*, is the result of a seven-year search by Mr Syz.

Mr Syz, 31, whose family established a Swiss art foundation, became convinced that somewhere in Venice was a lost wealth of old furniture that had not just been thrown into a canal when it got shabby. So he foraged around friends' cellars in the area until he found them: frivolous fantasies such as candle holders carved and painted like parrot tulips, or faux-marble cupboards in colours that do not exist in nature.

They had been forgotten for centuries because soupy brown paint was slapped over them to hide them from the invading Napoleonic soldiers, who took a delight in destroying "decadent" Italian art.

"I saw this lying on its side in a cellar, covered with dark varnish," Mr Syz says of a blue corner cupboard, priced £175,000. "I said to the owner, 'Why don't you restore this?' He said, 'I can't be bothered. I've got so much stuff.' Then he kindly gave it to me, and I had the wonderful task of cleaning it."

He took it home and tentatively scraped "windows" in the muddy surface — and, beneath it, found an early attempt at copying Dutch willow-pattern china, portraying Chinamen wearing graceful Venetian feathered hats.

Mr Syz's star find is an 18th-century wig cupboard with a complete imaginary garden painted over it featuring dogs

Sale previews

□ Cork Street, London's mecca for contemporary art, abandons its elitist image today and tomorrow during its second annual "open weekend". Treats for browsers range from evocative Aboriginal burial poles to powerful bronzes by Dame Elizabeth Frink; the weird avant-garde to the contemporary/traditional.

□ Fancy an unspecified object wrapped up by Christo (the artist whose entire oeuvre involves this exercise)? Yours for £15,000 to £20,000 at Christie's on Thursday. Or how about "President Z" — a ghoulish image by the late New York graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat at £35,000 to £45,000? Sotheby's contemporary art *tour de force*, also on Thursday, is a double self-portrait by Francis Bacon, comprising two faces with distorted features (£400,000).

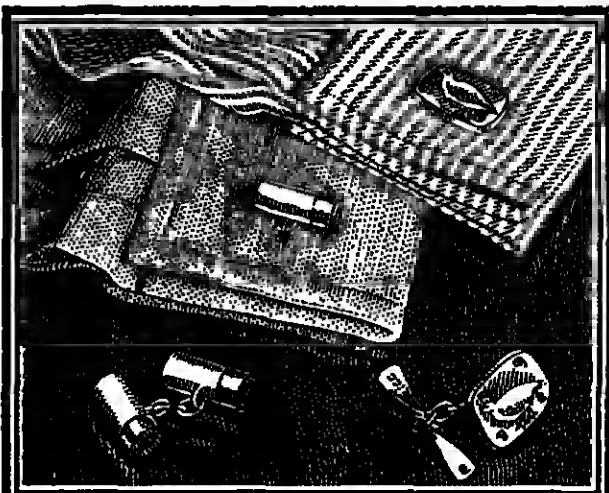
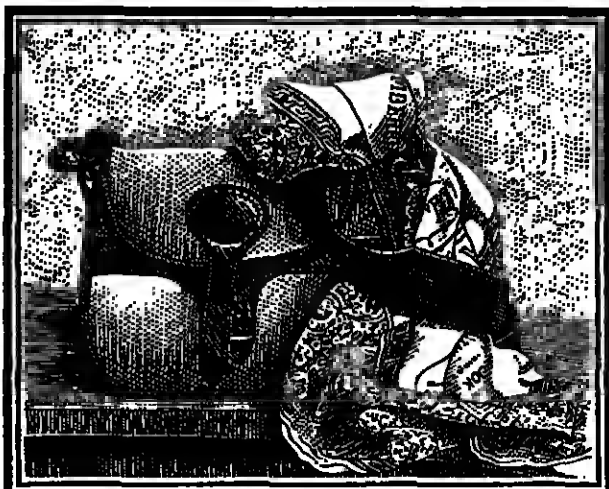
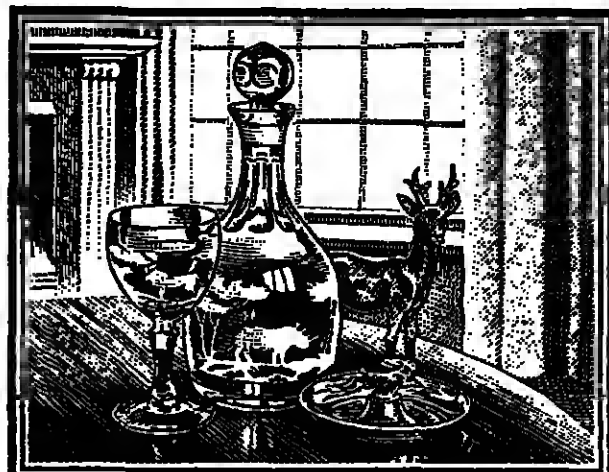
□ Sotheby's and Christie's persist in holding glamorous evening sales of Impressionist paintings. A rare picture by the eccentric post-Impressionist Henri Rousseau is expected to raise as much as £2 million at Christie's on Monday; the next evening Sotheby's has an early van Gogh at £250,000.

□ Bloomsbury Book Auctions ends the year with a bang on Thursday with a collection of books all about fireworks. *Pyrotechnia, or a discourse of Artificial Fire-Works* by the 17th-century enthusiast John Babington, is estimated at £600 to £800, while one F.M. Chantier's 19th-century *Recherches sur les Feux d'Artifice* is £150.

□ Prints are a theme this week. On Tuesday Christie's offers a remarkable collection by William Blake, including the last copy in private hands of the artist's prophetic book *Jerusalem*, expected to fetch as much as £1 million. At the Christopher Wood Gallery is the entire print work of J.J. Tissot, painter of consumptive Victorian lovelies.

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HAPPY
CHRISTMAS

5/5 *Plausible ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Colours indicate length of reviews appearing in national broadsheet newspapers*

3/5 **Trop de Toad Hall:** A feeling that the book was superfluous dominated the reviews of *The Willows in Winter* (HarperCollins, £12.99). William Horwood's sequel to *Kennerly*, Grahame's great *Wind in the Willows*. But there was disagreement over how well it had been done. In *The Spectator*, Juliet Townsend thought it was "well worth considering as a Christmas present for lovers of life on the River Bank", though "sometimes almost too true to the original". In this paper I suggested that Horwood had successfully got into the minds of Mole, Rat, Badger and Toad — but that "it is as though he has built a moat under the original building", and just given us a "delightful reflection" of it.

In *The Daily Telegraph* Ann Thwaite said the book was "simply an agreeable imitation... Copycat!" In *The Mail On Sunday*, Beryl Bainbridge thought the tone was rather successful but



Bookbuyer's
guide by
Derwent May

"not very much happens". Fiercer criticism came from Christina Hardyment in *The Independent*: Grahame's "elegant tension between Badger's formidable authority and Toad's irresponsibility" had been lost, with "Badger reduced to an inarticulate and ineffectual old codger" and Toad turned into a triumph for "opportunistic individualism". Harshness of all was James Sanyor in *The Observer*. He had his doubts about the original book, which he thought was really a lesson in survival for "a lazy, tolerant, upper middle class". But the sequel was "dire", showing the "weasel class" kept "bossily under the thumb" of the animal gents — and with a story as "inventive and mysterious as an afternoon soap opera". Col cms: 177

3/5 **Wolf accepts whistles:** In *Fire With Fire* (Chaito, £11.99) — said Natasha Walter in *The Independent* — Naomi Wolf has moved on from the views she expressed in her first book, *The Beauty Myth*. The old "victim feminism" has now given way to "feel-good feminism". Walter did not like the tone of the new book so much — it "no longer bears the mark of her own teenage anorexia, it bears the heavy imprint of her successful career as an American media star." However, it was "loud, strong and fun!" and its cheering message to women was right: "We don't have to ask for power, we can just take it."

In *The Daily Telegraph*, Lesley Clamer was more dubious: the book was about "the current progress and position of women" but "I cannot say that it told me anything new". In *The Sunday Telegraph*, Micolette Marrin approved of Naomi Wolf's argument that "the Sisterhood must stop being so exclusive, and realise that even right-wing women may be entitled to pursue their goals" — but thought this was "not so much fire with fire as a bit of a damp squib". Col cms: 194

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

Where would you go? Home — a beautiful 18th-century brick-and-lime farmhouse on the Chiltern escarp. I'd set the clock for late May to early June, when the countryside is vivid with colour, the sky walk-to-wall eggshell-blue. Who would be your perfect companion? Nigel Henbest, my best friend and business partner. What essential piece of clothing would you take? Wellies for walking — and something loose to hide all the food I intend to eat. What would you have to eat? Lots of Italian-inspired food — homemade pizza and pasta, with oodles of melted cheese, garlic, pesto. We're veggie, and can't get enough of food like this. And crème brûlée. What would you drink? Champers to wake up. An interesting southern French red at lunch, an English white to help the sun go down, and an Australian red with dinner. What luxury would you have? I'd love someone to magic a luxurious swimming pool in our garden. What piece of art would you like to look at? An English landowner commissioned an Italian land-

Heather Couper
Professor
of astronomy



scape artist, whose name I don't know, to paint his country house. He instructed the artist not to leave out the "sheep on the hills". The Italian misheard and painted a fleet of ships on the hills instead. I'd love to know where I can get a copy. What would you read? *The Chilterns* by Leslie W. Hepple and Alison M. Doggett (Phillimore 1992), plus books about local churches, houses and walks. What music would you like? Boyce, Handel and Vaughan Williams.

Who would be your least welcome guest? Any "independent thinker" with a theory of the universe. Which newspapers would you read? *The Bucks Free Press*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Observer* and *The Mail on Sunday*. What three things would you leave behind? My laptop computer, the phone and fax, and the scales. What three things would you most like to do? 1. Explore Chiltern churches and villages. 2. Start making some more of our homemade wine, Château Hencoop. 3. Indulge in my Mediterranean tendency to fall asleep after lunch, knowing that it wasn't going to get dark until 10pm. What souvenir of the weekend would you like? Something from a Chiltern antique shop: on my last weekend I bought a pair of beech farmhouse chairs and a nutcracker shaped like a dog.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet
Professor Couper, of Gresham College, London, is a former president of the British Astronomical Association. Tomorrow at 7pm, Channel 4's Equinox will feature her programme "Space Shuttle Discovery".

White wines are still too dull

Whites and wrongs

THE wine boom of recent years has essentially been a boom in white wine. Twenty years ago, we drank twice as much red wine as white; today, it is the other way round.

There are various reasons why white wine has become so much more popular. When we take up drinking wine for the first time, we are often put off by the tannins in red wines. We also expect what we drink to be refreshing, so we prefer white wines, which are generally served cool.

Moreover, inexpensive white wines are much better than they used to be. Twenty years ago, they suffered from the primitive state of wine-making technology. Whereas red wines are made by fermenting the grapes in contact with their skins, in the case of white wines, the juice is drained from the skins before fermentation. The tannins in the skins give red wine the astringency that puts off novice wine drinkers, but they also protect the wine from spoilage during fermentation. White wines are not protected by tannins, and in the past they tended to oxidise, turning brown and lifeless.

It has always been possible to find good cheap red wines. But the manufacture of decent cheap whites has only been made possible by the introduction of equipment to cool the wine and protect it from contact with air during fermentation. The purpose of this "cold fermentation" is to protect the wine from spoilage, rather than to maximise its flavour. Wines made in this way are fresh and fruity, but

they are not very interesting. One wine maker who has found a means of mitigating the dullness is the roving English wine maker, Hugh Ryman. He adds oak flavour. Since it would cost far too much to mature the wines in oak casks, he adds oak chips or oak powder instead. Technically this is illegal, but nobody seems to mind. Mr Ryman's oak-flavoured Hungarian Gyongyos Chardonnay was recently named White Wine of the Year by *Wine Magazine*.

MR RYMAN is also one of a growing number of wine makers who have realised that the flavour of white wines can be improved by learning from the manufacture of red ones: allowing the juice to spend a short period of contact with the grape skins, in order to extract some flavour from them before fermentation.

The disadvantage of oak powder and skin contact is that they add similar flavours to different wines. Oak powder imparts a crude coconutty character, skin contact a grassy aroma and taste.

The long-term solution is for wine makers to spend less of their time in the cellars, and more time seeking out and cultivating unusual local white grape varieties, rather than ignoring them in favour of international varieties such as sauvignon.

This is beginning to happen, but it will be many years before it is as easy to find interesting inexpensive white wines as red ones.

ANDREW BARR

BEST BUYS

- *Don Darius* Tesco, £2.75; *Don Hugo* Waitrose, £2.85; *Gateway* and *Somerfield*, £2.95; *Marques de Vitoria* Victoria Wine, £2.99. The classic oak-flavoured dry white wine, from Bodegas Vitorianas in northern Spain, under three different labels.
- *Gyongyos Chardonnay 1992* Co-op, £3.20; *Sainsbury*, *Safeway*, *Thresher*, *Wine Rack* and *Bottoms Up*, £3.35; *Majestic Wine* Warehouses, £3.39; *Fuller's*, £3.49. Hugh Ryman's powerful, oak-flavoured Hungarian chardonnay.
- *Domaine Bordes 1992* Sainsbury, £3.39; *Domaine le Puits 1992* Majestic Wine Warehouses, £3.69; *Domaine de Biau 1992* Victoria Wine, £3.99. Hugh Ryman's lively vin de pays des Côtes de Gascogne, under three labels.
- *Sainsbury's Torronas Argentina Dry White*, £3.49. This aromatic, stylish dry white wine was made in Argentina from a Spanish grape variety by an Australian resident in Portugal.
- *Nuragus di Cagliari 1992* Davisons, £3.85. A full-bodied dry white wine from a Sardinian grape variety.



Judy Goodman with some of her flock of "large, meaty" geese from Denmark — "you have to look after them: feed them well, take care they're never frightened or frustrated"

GEESSE

Goodman's Geese, Walsgrove Farm, Great Witley, Worcester, Worcestershire WR6 6JJ (0299 896272). Contact: Judy Goodman. Open May to end-July, 9am-5pm; Sept 23 to Dec 23, telephone ahead for geese. Directions: From Worcester, take A443 about 12 miles into Great Witley. Turn left on to B4203 at sign for Bromyard. After about 100 yards, take the first turning on the left and farm is ½ mile along on the right.

Judy Goodman is possibly the largest free-range goose producer in Britain; this year she promises around 2,500 over the Christmas period. The farm, nestled in the Abbey Hills, is run by her husband and his brother and covers 500 acres in total. For the geese they have set aside 50 acres of good grass.

During the summer and autumn you can watch the geese waddling around pecking away contentedly; then suddenly, and for no apparent reason, they will come together in a whoosh of white, flapping and crackling as if the world was coming to an end — they are wonderfully

powerful birds. Ms Goodman buys them in as day-old goslings and they peak at the grass, supplemented with a compound feed of minerals, vitamins, wheat and barley made up to her specifications.

They are slaughtered by dislocation of the neck (the approved way) at any age between 22-28 weeks, hung for about ten days, dry-plucked and eviscerated, and sold oven-ready weighing 4.5-5.85kg (10-13lb). Orders can be placed at any time from August onwards and, such is the demand, she has been known to sell out early in the season. With some geese ready by September 23 (for Michaelmas) through to December 23, she will send them by overnight transport anywhere in Britain, or they can be collected from the farm.

For a couple of years now I have had geese from Ms Goodman for Christmas. They are magnificent meaty

Geese getting fat

Henrietta Green tracks down fine British fare for Christmas

birds with moist, deeply resonant flesh. Carefully plucked for an unbruised and unbroken skin, they are beautifully presented, trussed with string to make stuffing easier. They also come with a full complement of giblets, a chunk of goose fat and a bunch of fresh herbs. What is particularly striking about these birds is their finish: unlike some other geese, they have a good meat-to-bone ratio — a 4.5kg (10lb) goose is ample for six greedy eaters.

The excellence of her birds is, Ms Goodman says, "a question of good management. First the breed and quality of goslings must be right. I choose a Legarth cross, a large meaty bird from Denmark. And you have to look after them: feed them well, take care they're never frightened or frustrated. And we only kill them when they're mature: you get better, deeper-flavoured meat."

WENSLEYDALE CHEESE

Fortmayne Farm Dairy, Fortmayne Cottage, Newton-le-Willows, Bedale, Yorkshire DL8 1SL (0677 30660). Contact: Suzanne Stirke (telephone ahead). I have good news. Farmhouse Wensleydale is being made in a farmhouse in Lower Wensleydale and, in the capable hands of Suzanne Stirke, is

thriving. Now I realise some people might not find this as exciting as I do; but if we are to preserve our culinary heritage and all its richness and diversity, then small-scale makers working in the "traditional" way must be fostered and encouraged.

Wensleydale is thought to go back as far as the time of the Norman Conquest. As the story has it, Norman soldiers stationed up North complained bitterly about the food and King William persuaded his uncle, the Abbot of Savigny, to send over some monks to make cheese. The first monastery was built in Fors, in Upper Wensleydale, where the weather was more demented and the natives less hostile. The cheese they made used ewes' milk like a Roquefort and would blue naturally; quite how and why it changed from ewes' to cows' milk, no one is too sure.

After the dissolution of the monasteries, it was the farmers' wives who made the cheese, until the second world war. What then brought farmhouse production to an abrupt halt was the edict that all milk available for cheese should be brought into factories and turned into hard cheese with a maximum moisture content of 40 per cent — unachievable with Wensleydale. Ms Stirke has only been making for the last five years

and deliberately set out to achieve the same pre-war moist cheese. She makes it with unpasteurised milk from the next-door Friesian herd, in a small 225-litre (50-gallon) vat. The milk is started and rennetted for about an hour, the curds are cut and stirred with a ladle, left to sit in the whey for an hour, then the whey takes about an hour to drain away. The curds are then cut into blocks, turned and then broken up by hand and salted at the same time. It is immensely hard work. I felt exhausted just watching Ms Stirke. The curds are milled, packed into cloth-lined moulds and turned; the next day they are turned and lightly weighted for 24 hours, turned again, washed in salt and water and banded.

Made in 450g, 900g and 2.3kg (1, 2 and 5lb) cheeses, it is eaten young (when only two weeks) or it can be kept to about five weeks for a deeper-flavoured, slightly drier cheese. I tried it when still young and was delighted by its moist butteriness and its loose, crumbly texture.

FRUIT CAKES

Mrs Gill's Country Cakes — Unit 18 S, Link House, Leat Street, Tiverton, Devon EX16 5LG (0884 242744; fax 0884 257440). Contact: Jacqueline Gill (telephone ahead). Jacqueline Gill has been baking her rich dark fruit cake in a small way for several years. Recently she moved from her farmhouse kitchen to a small

industrial unit in the centre of Tiverton and from here things have really taken off — last year she was supplying Waitrose.

Her cakes are very old-fashioned: rich and dark with just a smidgen of spice. The ingredients are all of the best quality: plump currants, raisins and sultanas, juicy mixed peel, a dark Muscovado sugar, black treacle, unbleached white flour, butter, fresh eggs, fat glossy undyed morello cherries and brandy, although she will add whisky if you prefer. The smallest cake is 10cm (4in) in diameter, weighing 350g (12oz), and they graduate up in size inch by inch to a generous 17.5cm (7in), weighing 1.35kg (3lb). The only square cake she makes is a 12.5cm (5in). Her cakes come plain or neatly decorated with rows of whole nuts and cherries. She will also make wedding cakes to order from "an even richer mixture — with more fruit and more brandy".

● *Edited extract from Henrietta Green's Food Lover's Guide to Britain (BBC Books, £9.99). The author has been nominated for the prestigious André Simon food writer's award.*

ENTERTAINING AT HOME: MARTIN MILLER

Quaff by candlelight

I have been called determinedly gregarious, but that's not quite the way I put it. I like entertaining and wouldn't do it unless I enjoyed it. Most weeks I have a party, either in London or at Sissinghurst Court, in Kent.

It's dinner for ten, supper for 20, or a drinks party for 100 or more, and always informal. I make sure the food and wine are good, but ambience and atmosphere are the important ingredients. I do the cooking, but I'm not a gourmet cook.

Anyway, I don't want to be left out of things by spending too much time in the kitchen. My guests are usually 50 per cent friends and 50 per cent people I've never met before. I'm always into new ventures, so I'm lucky that I meet such a wide range of people.

After a quick shop in Marks & Spencer or Sainsbury's in the afternoon, I can do supper for 20 people in 30 minutes flat: prawn and tuna starter, chicken paprika with rice and French beans as a main course and three shades of coffee marshmallow pudding — or Viennetta.

I buy wine by the case, whatever I like at the time. Quantity rather than quality is what I go for, although it has to be something above plonk level. Expensive wine is unappreciated and a total waste of time, I find.

My house in London lends itself to parties. The studio room is perfect for entertaining. I put together nestle tables in the middle of the room and build up an enormous carpetless oval of antiques, carpets, candles, fruit, flowers, sweets and nibbly



Martin Miller and guests enjoying wine "in quantity"

things. I like candles because they give three-dimensional moving light. There are 160 candle holders in the room, but I never light more than 40 or 50 at a time, otherwise they generate too much heat and light.

Not so long ago the room was the setting for Annabel Croft's hen party. I organised the food with Annabel's sister, Louise: tomato soup, cold salmon and salad, fruit and cheese. Plus a clairvoyant, an SAS attack by men in balaclavas and the obligatory striptease.

I like parties with something different. Earlier this year I had a Victorian party, black and macabre. Or in the summer I might have an all-white garden party for 300 people in Kent. White food and drink, white flowers, white candles in the walkways and everyone dressed in white.

When I'm in Kent for the weekend I enjoy cooking traditional basic Sunday lunch. Traditional in the sense that you can slope off for a snooze

in the afternoon and come back to find that your guests are still there and enjoying themselves. The studio room in London has a large open fireplace, big enough to roast a sheep on a spit. I've never done so, but might try it one day.

Chicken paprika (serves 20)	
3 large onions	
oil	
4tbsp paprika	
20 chicken breasts	
2 large cartons single cream	

Sweat the chopped onions with oil and paprika in frying pan until soft. Remove onions and fry chicken until cooked. Add onions and simmer for a few minutes. Allow to cool slightly and add cream at the last minute. Serve on a bed of rice and French beans.

Interview by Alasdair Riley
● *Martin Miller's best-selling Miller's Antiques Price Guide is now in its fourteenth edition. He is also a publisher, hotelier and property dealer.*



CHEF: Stephen Smith, aged 45.
Born: Bury, Lancashire.
Restaurant: Restaurant Nineteen, North Park Road, Heaton, Bradford, W Yorks BD9 5NT (0273 292559).

Past: Catering college and industrial experience, otherwise self-taught.
Present: "My style is evolving all the time. I still get a tingle when I've done a new dish and know it's absolutely right. But I don't like waste."

Personal: Keen collector of the works of Russell Flint — limited editions hang in the dining-room.

Future: "Who knows? I'm lucky to have achieved things beyond expectation, and to do something I enjoy. So far, there have been no dull Monday mornings."

Dish: Yorkshire pheasant, with the breast roasted on the bone and served with a plum sauce, and the leg stuffed with mushrooms and chestnuts, wrapped in bacon and served in a casserole. Followed by quince and apple tart with quince ice-cream. Alternative dish: braised steak in venison haunch served with a peppercorn sauce with red cabbage, chestnuts and an orange potato cake.

Dinner: £26 for 4 courses, including coffee.
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Lighter, leaner winter warmers

Frances Bissell
suggests fresh,
colourful fish
and chicken
casseroles to beat
the cold



**The
TIMES
COOK**

If you are in the mood for light, fresh, colourful and appetising dishes rather than dark brown casseroles, the following recipes are for you. Like much of my cooking, they are extended recipes. For example, I cook plenty of peppers with the cod recipe to ensure leftovers – and at least three ideas spring to mind for using the extra peppers.

Cod is a good choice for a winter dish as it is at its best now, and although the recipe will adapt well to other fish, I like the flavour, texture and cooking qualities of a piece of cod taken from the thick end of the fillet. The yellow and red of the peppers, and the name of the dish, Cod Maria José, indicate a Spanish inspiration.

With the cod I would serve a crisp, white Rioja, a fruity albariño from Galicia, or a cool fino from Andalusia.

Chicken makes a good main course at any time of the year and, although I prefer to pot roast or casserole the bird, there is much to be said for steaming or poaching it for a lighter dish. Buying the chicken breasts ready-cut can speed things up, but I prefer to buy the whole bird, joint it and use the legs and carcass in other recipes.

A compote of dried fruit, cooked in fragrant tea or wine, with spices and citrus peel, can be prepared a day or two in advance. When ready to serve, scatter it with toasted, flaked almonds and accompany it with cream or yoghurt. As an alternative pudding, I include an adaptation of the Swiss roll.

Cod Maria José

(serves 4-6)

- 3 red and 3 yellow peppers, or more depending on which of the following recipes you want to try
- 1 onion
- extra virgin olive oil
- 1½ lb/680g skinned cod fillet from the neck end
- ¼ pt/70ml fino sherry
- freshly ground black pepper
- sea salt
- dash of lemon juice

Quarter the peppers, discard the seeds and grill or bake, skin-side up, until the skin is blistered and charred. Steam the skin loose by putting the



peppers in a paper or plastic bag for a few minutes. Peel off the skin and cut half the peppers into strips for this dish, and leave the rest in quarters for future use. Peel and halve the onion lengthways and slice into new-moon segments. Gently fry the onion in the olive oil in an enamelled cast-iron dish or other oven-proof container. When the onions are soft, place the fish on top and surround with strips of red and yellow peppers. Brush a little more olive oil on top of the fish, add the fino and season lightly. Cook in a pre-heated oven at 180°C/350°F, gas mark 4, for 15 minutes or so, depending on the thickness of the fish. Just before serving, add a dash of lemon juice, or garnish with lemon wedges. Serve with boiled or mashed potatoes, or a salad of herbs and watercress.

Recipes for starters using red and yellow peppers

Sardine, pepper and couscous salad: Steam or soak some couscous and mix with

chopped shallot, chopped fresh mint, coriander and vinaigrette. Heap on to plates. Top with two or three canned sardines and, on top of them, put a couple of pieces of pepper, yellow, red or both.

Pepper terrine: Line a loaf tin with clingfilm, and then with well-blanching spinach leaves, or well-cooked cabbage leaves. Layer the peppers with a little seasoning and cover with the leaves and clingfilm. Weight it down heavily and leave overnight in the refrigerator before slicing. Chilling it almost to freezing point in the ice-making compartment makes slicing easier.

Bruschetta: Chop the red and yellow peppers in the food processor, season with a little oil, vinegar, salt and pepper and heap on to toasted slices of ciabatta. Leftover baked or grilled aubergines or roasted tomatoes can be dealt with in the same way.

SKINLESS, boneless chicken breasts are quick and easy to cook and fit into all kinds of

menus, depending on the seasonings you use and the accompaniments you serve with the chicken. Tandoori or masala paste can be rubbed into the meat, which can be cooked over steam scented with cinnamon, cloves and cardamom for a flavour of Asia. Tarragon and mushrooms suggest a classic French dish; tomatoes, marjoram and garlic an Italian.

The quality of the chicken is important: look for organic or free-range.

Here are some main-course chicken suggestions around which to plan a meal.

Chicken à la carte

Use skinless, boneless chicken breasts. Season the meat very lightly, place in steamer basket and steam for about 12-15 minutes. Consider some of the following flavourings, garnishes and accompaniments:

Tapenade and white beans: Soak and cook some cannellini or butter beans. Mash them to a purée with a little extra virgin olive oil, season with salt and pepper, and snip in a little sage or rosemary.

To make the tapenade, rinse and drain a small jar of capers (about 3oz/85g), a can of flat anchovy fillets and a 14oz/400g can of pitted black olives. Peel a couple of cloves of garlic, if you like, and blend everything to a not-too-fine mixture in the food processor. A salad of rocket leaves or watercress is very good with this, and the tapenade can be served hot or cold.

Spiced black beans and grilled tomatoes: Another black-and-white dish, with the beans cooked as for a thick version of traditional black bean soup. Soak turtle beans or black kidney beans for several hours, boil hard for 15 minutes, drain and rinse them and cook them in ham or other stock until soft. Fry onions and garlic, add plenty of cumin and coriander, both ground and seeds for added texture, and a little olive oil. Add the

drained beans, and mash to a purée. Put the chicken breast on top, garnish with coriander, and serve with halves of well-grilled plum tomatoes.

Oriental vegetables: Shred a pale Chinese cabbage and the darker leaves of choy sum or savoy cabbage, and steam the chicken breasts on top, having seasoned them with rice wine or sherry, soy sauce and toasted sesame oil. Serve with a stir-fried mixture of shredded ginger, sliced mushrooms, blanched bean sprouts, sliced carrots and celery, flavoured with the usual seasonings, and garnished with toasted sesame seeds or crushed dry-roasted peanuts. Serve with brown rice or wholemeal noodles.

Winter vegetables and mustard sauce: Shred or lightly slice several leeks and steam the chicken breasts on top. Serve with a mash of parsnips and potato, flavoured with nutmeg and olive oil. Make a sauce by reducing chicken stock, adding a splash of white wine, and stirring in some grain mustard.

THE pudding based on the classic fadest sponge becomes even more virtuous by making an unusual substitution for egg yolks, for those worried about their intake of eggs. Having got the method right, there is an infinite variety of flavourings for both sponge and filling.

To drink with this dish, an orange muscat dessert wine is the obvious choice, or perhaps the sparkling fresh Moscato d'Asti, relatively low in alcohol but full of flavour and fruit.

Tangerine and yoghurt sponge roll (serves 6)

- The sponge**
- 4oz/110g cottage cheese
- 3oz/85g caster sugar
- 3tbsp skimmed milk
- zest of 2 tangerines
- 3tbsp tangerine juice
- 4oz/110g self-raising flour, sifted
- 4 large, free-range egg whites
- 1tbsp icing sugar, sifted

The filling

- zest of 1 tangerine
- 2-3tbsp tangerine juice
- 2tbsp clear honey
- 6oz/170g thick Greek yoghurt

Blend the cottage cheese, sugar and milk until smooth, and stir in the juice and zest. Carefully fold in the sifted flour. Whisk the egg whites and gradually add the icing sugar until the egg whites are peaked and glossy.

Fold the two mixtures together and spoon into a greaseproof paper-lined and greased Swiss roll tray. Bake for about 15 minutes in a pre-heated oven at 180°C/350°F, gas mark 4, until the surface of the sponge is just set and springy, and the sides beginning to shrink away from the tray. Turn out on to a clean tea towel and, when cool, peel off the greaseproof paper. Trim off the crusty edges of the sponge, and roll in the tea towel.

To make the filling, mix the zest, juice and honey into the yoghurt. It is a good idea to make this before you make the

cake so that the flavours blend, and the yoghurt thickens again. Unroll the sponge, spread on the filling and re-roll. Decorate with crystallised orange peel, and sift on icing sugar.

MINCEMEAT: A HASH

Frances Bissell writes: I am sorry that in adapting my luxury mincemeat recipe for small quantities (Saturday, November 20), I did not adjust all the ingredients. Consequently, the balance of the sugar to fruit was incorrect.

However, even if you have already made your mincemeat it can still be corrected. Tip the mix into a bowl and add at least the same quantity of dried fruit. If the lemons used were very small, also grate in half a bramley apple. Mix thoroughly and report in clean, dry jars.

If you are planning to make the mincemeat, use about 4-6oz/110-170g sugar to a generous 1lb/500g of dried fruit, depending on sweetness of the fruit you choose.

RESTAURANT WATCH

ENGLISH OAK
The Oak Room
Le Meridien London,
21 Piccadilly, London W1
(071-734 8000)

Each evening from Monday to Thursday this week four leading French chefs will be taking turns to present a celebration of English cooking. In order, they are Michel Roux of the Waterside Inn, Raymond Blanc from Quai des Saïsons, Bruno Loubet of Bistrot Bruno, and Michel Lorrain of La Côte Saint-Jacques at Leigley. Their set menus at £49 a head include reinterpretations of apple crumble, toad-in-the-hole, and icky sticky pudding.

SCOTCH WHISK
Glenskirk House
Kilsyth Road,
Banknock, Stirlingshire
(0324 840201)

This improbably sited restaurant between Glasgow and Falkirk can claim a record for the speed with which it books out at Christmas – every year within three hours of starting to accept reservations. At other times Garrie Scott's *a la carte* cooking costs about £25 a head, but lunches £8 and table d'hôte Sunday lunch £10.25. Open noon to 2pm and 6.30 to 10pm, except Monday evenings.

GREEK TREAT
Simpsons
101-103 Warwick Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire (0926-86457)

Andreas Santona, former head chef at the Plough and Harrow in Birmingham, famous for his kleficio, has now set up here as chef-patron, with Andy Waters from his old brigade as chef. Three-course lunches £10.95, and at dinner two courses £13.95 or three £16.95. Open 12.30 to 2pm and 7 to 10pm, except Sundays.

INDIAN QUEEN
Tamasaha
131 Widmore Road,
Bromley, Kent (081-460 3240)

The owners of Shapla in Westminster have recruited a Queen Victoria lookalike for the official inauguration on Wednesday of their new restaurant and hotel in Bromley, already serving "distinctively authentic" Indian cuisine prepared by Shapla's former head chef, Anil Sinha. About £20 a head, Sunday lunch buffet £6.95. Open noon to 2.30pm and 6 to 11.30pm, seven days a week.

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hours when the natural fragrance of the leaves reaches its peak, resulting in a tea with an exquisite aroma. 125g £7.85

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Frank and Marjorie Lawley show off their "refined", grit-filled Northumberland cottage garden (inset: the grit mulch shown actual size)

True grit in seed wars

Keen gardeners begin to hate hoes: it is not the effort that worries them, it is the thought of all those interesting seedlings snuffed out before they have a chance to show their worth. And there is nothing like a grit mulch for providing a good supply of interesting seedlings.

Unlike gravel, grit is fine enough to encourage seeds landing from above. If laid in a thick enough layer, say 2-3in, it is also effective in inhibiting seedlings from below. So, assuming your garden is relatively free of flourishing weeds, the seedlings that land in the grit are likely to be from surrounding plants. Conversely, any weeds established in the soil have less chance of making their way to the surface.

A grit mulch of a neutral colour has a soft effect on the garden - tidy, but still somehow earthy-looking. The plants look as if they belong to the ground in general. Coarser mulches of gravel or bark so often make the plants look individually presented, like expensive chocolates on a tray.

Hertford House, near Cambo in Northumberland, is the most refined type of cottage garden. The owners,

Stephen Anderton describes the advantages of using a fine grit mulch

Frank and Marjorie Lawley, use the same fine grit on the paths as they do to mulch all the stone-edged beds. The effect is calm and gentle beyond expectation, and plants flow in and out of the beds as comfortably as their background of grit does.

But gardening with grit demands a certain hygiene when planting. Whenever the mulch is disturbed to add a new plant or to divide an old one, you must make sure that the soil stays where it belongs - underneath the grit. Otherwise weed seeds in the soil will be brought to the surface to germinate. The mulch needs to be carefully scraped away to the sides before the soil is disturbed, and then returned to its position after planting.

The use of any mulch rather assumes that you have already got the soil below into good heart, and that it can be left to its own devices for a few years. But time will tire any planter, and eventually you may wish to feed the bed with compost or manure.

The beauty of grit mulch is that, on all but the sandiest of soils, it is beneficial to dig the old mulch in along with the compost. It will create a good, free-draining texture in the top spit of soil. Once the bed is restored, a new layer of grit can be spread on the surface.

Gritty soil becomes a pleasure to garden in. It does not stick to tools, but positively cleans them. Dry sandy soil encourages long questing roots, but a soil containing plenty of humus and grit does not. Plants develop wonderfully fibrous roots which lift easily from the soil when you want to divide them. This is why in the nursery at Hertford House, plants can be lifted from the rows in summer, just as they are required. It is like choosing your meal from a tank of live fish, and a far cry from those plants which have spent six months sitting in a four-litre pot of sterile peat.

A grit mulch makes a good surface for an alpine bed because it gives a free-draining surface to the soil. It stops water standing at the neck of the plants where they are liable to rot off in winter. But it is even better to dig grit into the top six inches of the soil first, before planting at all, so that drainage is perfected.

There is no need to buy washed, single-size grits for this purpose. Grit with "fines" in it will do just as well (say, 4in downwards), and it will be cheaper. Some suppliers call it grit-sand. As a mulch to suppress weeds in the soil it is just as effective as single-size grit, but it is a more congenial medium for seeds landing from above. Show me a better surface in which to cultivate a colony of the biennial sea-holly, *Eryngium giganteum*. Grit gardeners develop an eye for seedling leaves, and know what promises to be useful and what is a weed. If it is a weed, it will never be easier to remove than from grit.

But if all this sounds messy or hard work, you are probably by inclination not a grit gardener. Smarter and probably simpler is a mulch of gravel. Next week: gravel mulches

More people are growing their own produce

A crop of my own

labour-saving. It is available from several suppliers including Chase, Sumons, Mr Fothergill's and T&M. Chase also has a handsome new red-stalked and overwintering multi-stalk onion.

Each year, my family in-



The mini broccoli Trixie

creases its shallot allocation, because these small, tasty onionlets are easy to grow and full of flavour. We shall again be growing the sharp-tasting Pifant and the red Delicato (both excellent new introductions from Marshalls) and the reddish Sante (Dobies).

Marshalls, the largest mail-

order supplier of seed potatoes, is proud of its selection. New varieties in its experimental section, the pink-eyed Kestrel and the salad potato Samba, are tasty, although we found that the latter suffered badly from slugs if left in the ground during a very wet season. Our favourites are the creamy, slightly floury Dunhupe and Lola.

We found blight this year on some of our potato plants, so with the warning of a new, more virulent strain of blight spreading the country, we will be looking at Sante, which is the most resistant to this disease. (Marshalls will also supply by mail-order the effective Roottrainer seedpots, and the horticultural fleece Agryl, which protects crops from pests and poor weather.) The shapes and forms of some of the salad greens and vegetables are as attractive as plants grown for their ornamental foliage: for example, oak-leaved lettuces, the rosettes of cornsalad, the crimped intricacies of endive and the purples of winter chicory.

At first I grew salad greens alongside my flowers in the garden because I had so little space; now I do it because I enjoy growing them and having them freshly on hand all year round.

FRANCESCA GREENOAK

● The Organic Gardening Catalogue, Coombe House, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 1HY (0932 829551). Dobies, Broomhill Way, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7QW (0803 512703). Marshalls, Wisbeck (0945 583407). Sumons, Hale Road, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7QJ (0803 614455). Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3BU (0473 688821).

WEEKEND TIPS

- Clear gutters and water barrels of dead leaves.
- Ventilate greenhouses and conservatories on mild days.
- Prune about a third of the new growth on bush roses and repeat-flowering climbers to reduce wind damage.
- Prune established apple and pear trees (not the plum or cherry trees).
- Take 3-4in (8-10cm) cuttings from periwinkle plants; rooted in a cold frame, they should be ready to plant out in the spring.
- Soak the roots of bare-rooted rose plants in water for a few hours before planting.
- Try not to walk on frosted lawns, damaging the grass.
- Look for canker on fruit trees and cut back the soft, dark-brown diseased growth to clean wood.

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The loving touch in root and branch

Next weekend, as part of National Tree Week, bare trees everywhere will be adorned with lanterns and bunting. Derwent May investigates tree dressing days



Dressing a pleached lime in rainbow ribbons in the London borough of Barnet

Only God can make a tree. According to the popular Edwardian ballad. But human beings can do most things to a tree short of that, and next weekend trees throughout Britain are going to be amazed by what has hit them.

However, with a bit of luck the only gales sweeping through their branches will be gales of affection. In towns and villages, thousands of trees will find themselves dressed up and decked out by admirers.

At Peartree Bridge, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, the apple tree in the Old Rectory garden will be hung with lanterns and masks representing birds of the world. In Cumbria, a tree outside Maryport library will be dressed with white doves. At Sulgrave Manor, near Banbury, Oxfordshire, the Green Man will be lurking about while children dress trees in the ancient orchard. A tree in the town centre of Pontefract, West Yorkshire, will be decorated with wind chimes. Burnley, Lancashire, people will hang the trees with recycled materials.

Processions, songs, dances and tree study will accompany all these events, and profes-

A wood with no old trees has far fewer birds in it

sional tree-climbers, some from local fire brigades, will be scrambling through the branches. In the recently saved Oxleas Wood at Greenwich, southeast London, people will be toasting the trees in mulled wine.

Wintry weather has driven most of the leaves from the trees by now. So except for a few oaks, young beeches and

action — above all, in local conservation efforts.

The tree celebrations form part of a wider campaign, National Tree Week (in fact rather longer), which started on Thursday and runs to December 5. The week is organised by another charitable body, The Tree Council, with the support this year of Safeway. It has rather ingeniously yoked its own interests with those of another movement, the European Year of Older People and Solidarity between Generations. The link is an emphasis on the value of old trees.

Old trees are important: they are not just fountains of firewood, waiting to be carted off. Apart from the awe inspired by the thought that a tree in Sherwood Forest was already there when Shakespeare strolled through, there is plenty of other matter for contemplation in them. It is in old trees that holes are formed where branches have been torn away, and jackdaws and tits and starlings find hidden places to nest. A wood with no old trees has far fewer birds in it. Insects breed in the cracks of an old tree and rotten timber, and many species of fungi and moss and lichen grow on its bark.

However, the Tree Council's campaign also leads rather



A 1917 illustration from "Old Woman in the Wood" by the brothers Grimm, in which a prince is turned into a tree

cunningly into the importance of planting and managing the old trees of the future. It has organised more than 3,000 planting and conservation events in National Tree Week, and hopes this will encourage innumerable people to plant trees themselves.

The council is a rich source of advice in these matters. It urges would-be tree planters to copy nature by planting trees which already grow well in the chosen area (I agree with them that it is best to keep exotic species for towns). The council says it is easy to find tree seeds lying around, especially at this time of the year, and that local landowners will often be quite happy to let you transplant some of their unwanted seedlings.

Trees are under threat in so

many ways, in spite of all the preservation orders on them. Many hedgerow elms are struggling on in spite of Dutch elm disease — but there are few tall elm trees left on our horizons. Acid rain takes its toll. Britain is now one of the least wooded countries in Europe. Yet trees are uniquely precious, both for wildlife and people. The 17th-century poet George Herbert said that sometimes he felt he would like to be a tree, because that way he would be certain of being useful: he would provide fruit or shade, and "some bird would trust / Her household to me, and I should be just."

The danger, perhaps, with some of the tree jollifications next weekend is that the visitors, far from being made more aware of them, will not

be able to see the trees for the dressing. If we are really to love our trees as they deserve, we must see their beauty undressed and natural, at all times of year and in all their many forms and moods.

Further information about "Tree Dressing Days", contact Common Ground, 41 Shelton Street, London WC2H 9JF (01-379 3109). For details about National Tree Week call 01-235 8854. Advice on tree planting from Kevin Hand, Tree Council Project Officer, Great Eastern House, Tenison Road, Cambridge CB1 2DU.

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TREE LOVE

□ The Old Rectory, Waterside, Peartree Bridge, Milton Keynes. Contact Manly Holland, director (0908 68514).

The apple tree at the Old Rectory will be dressed with "birds of the world" masks and lanterns. Plus dance performance, shadow puppets, storytelling, fire sculpture, fireworks and a crowman, following an afternoon of tree-based activities, including quiz and craft workshops. Food and drink. Saturday December 4, 3.30-8pm.

□ West Cumbria Groundwork Trust, Cumbria. Contact Phil Bradley, woodlands project officer (0946 81367).

The trust is organising events in West Cumbria. Ewanegg Infants and Allerdale Mide are dressing a tree which grew from a stake outside Maryport library with white doves, followed by storytelling and a performance. An outreach youth group is dressing a tree at the Whitehaven Civic Centre. Friday, December 3.

□ Sulgrave Manor, near Banbury, Oxfordshire. Contact Maureen Jeffery (0295 760205).

"A Winter Wassail". Local schools will dress the trees in the manor's ancient orchard. The Green Man will help with answers for the children's tree quiz. Mummies and Morris dancers will also perform. Saturday and Sunday December 4 and 5, 10.30am-4pm.

□ Wakefield Countryside Service/Ratatask Theatre Company (0224 206200).

Wakefield Countryside Service and Ratatask Theatre Company are decorating a tree with painted symbols and wind chimes, celebrating birds and bird song, raising awareness of wildlife. Public workshop (book early) and three workshops with local schools. Sunday December 5, 11am-2.30pm.

□ Piccadilly Garden, Piccadilly Road, Burnley, Lancashire. Contact Claire Fallinower, BTCV (0282 425011 ext 2369).

BTCV Community Development Section will be celebrating Piccadilly Garden's centenary with decorations from recycled materials to hang on mature trees. Local children with grandparents are planting new, young trees. Poems and stories on the history of the gardens will be read and displayed. Saturday December 4, 10.30am.

□ Oxleas Wood, Greenwich, London SE10 (081-850 7037). Songs in praise of trees sung by the Thomas Tallis Society. Decoration of wild service trees and hornbeams. Saturday December 4, 12.30pm until dusk. Entrances off Kenilworth Gardens and the Walling Way.

□ Beaumanor, Loughborough, Leicestershire (0509 269416).

Under the canopy of a 500-year-old yew tree, candles will be lit and branches hung with bells. Morris dancers and storytelling. Friday December 3.

A catalogue of opportunity.

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Edward Marriott persuades public figures to confess their sins and celebrate their saving graces

1st Sloth: I am slothful, yet I am also a "causalistic" — my word meaning to "get worked up about good causes". This condition causes hyperactivity and makes me a bore for anyone listening. I think work in itself is pointless. I find plenty of causes in the constituency.

2nd Wrath: All things mechanical hate me and demonstrate this by refusing to work for no sensible reason. As hate breeds hate, I reciprocate the feeling. Cars and lawnmowers especially have suffered from my wrath. Family, friends, none of these make me wrathful. John Major? Certainly not, I like him.

3rd Pride: I am proud of my bloodhounds that I have bred over the past 20 years. As working hounds they bear no resemblance to the pathetic creatures shown at Crufts. Their ability to hunt their quarry (any Times reader would do) verges on the miraculous and the music of their cry should be heard at the Froms. Other sorts of pride? I'm proud of my children, but it's a closely guarded secret. I never talk about it. I think pride is a bit of a vice. Parents who go on about their children really are rather a nuisance, aren't they?

4th Envy: I envy New Zealanders. There they are, not too many of them, with the most beautiful country in the world all to themselves. We let them down disgracefully when we joined the EEC, and the Common Agricultural Policy made New Zealand nearly bankrupt.

5th Gluttony: This overtakes me at 4.30pm; it is time for the Commons tea room and a plateful of crumpets and lots of butter. The rest of the time I'm very ungluttonous.

6th Avarice: It doesn't pay. Long ago I entrusted my money to a bunch of idiots at Lloyd's. They called it marine insurance, but instead of insuring ships on the high seas the money went on environmental pollution in the middle of north America. Now I'm suffering, like thousands of others; avarice is in my past.

7th Lust: Naughty minds think there's only one connotation, but the lust for power is just as important and it's one of the chapters in the book I'm writing about superlatives.

VICES & VIRTUES

that we should heed every word. Nothing else matters. I do have a horror of people who trot out their religion, so I'd prefer not to talk about mine. I am a Quaker.

2nd Charity: This lovely word is sadly abused; it's a pity we can't agree to go back to its original meaning. For several decades we've had to speak of love, but now that word is changing its meaning. I don't regard giving money on the streets as charity; I regard that as self-indulgence. A lot of people give money to beggars because they feel better than beggars.

3rd Justice: Didn't Aristotle say that between friends there's no need for justice? One day homo sapiens may be wise enough to agree. I think one ought to mete out friendliness, not justice. The bigger the community you live in the more difficult it is for friendships to develop and the greater the need for justice, which is a poor substitute. I was a barrister for 20 years and used to get outraged by injustice.

4th Fortitude: If you believe what you are doing is right, keep going. If not, stop. I have little hope for our poor country: a group of us have been studying trends in the economy; they point to an economic crash in a few years far worse than we've known, with appalling social consequences.

5th Hope: I'm a born optimist. I'd like to advocate a quote of Francis Bacon: he said he was optimistic, but optimistic about nothing.

6th Prudence: The word sounds priggish. As I am nearly blind, I'm very careful about crossing a street. I wait to follow a stranger, which sometimes arouses nasty suspicions. I'm not careful about everything; some people say I'm not always careful what I say to the newspapers. But I don't like to talk too much about myself — too much introspection affects one's character.

7th Temperance: I never drink — except with other people, and then enjoy keeping up with any pace they set.

• Sir Richard is MP for Holland with Boston.



RICHARD BODY
Conservative MP

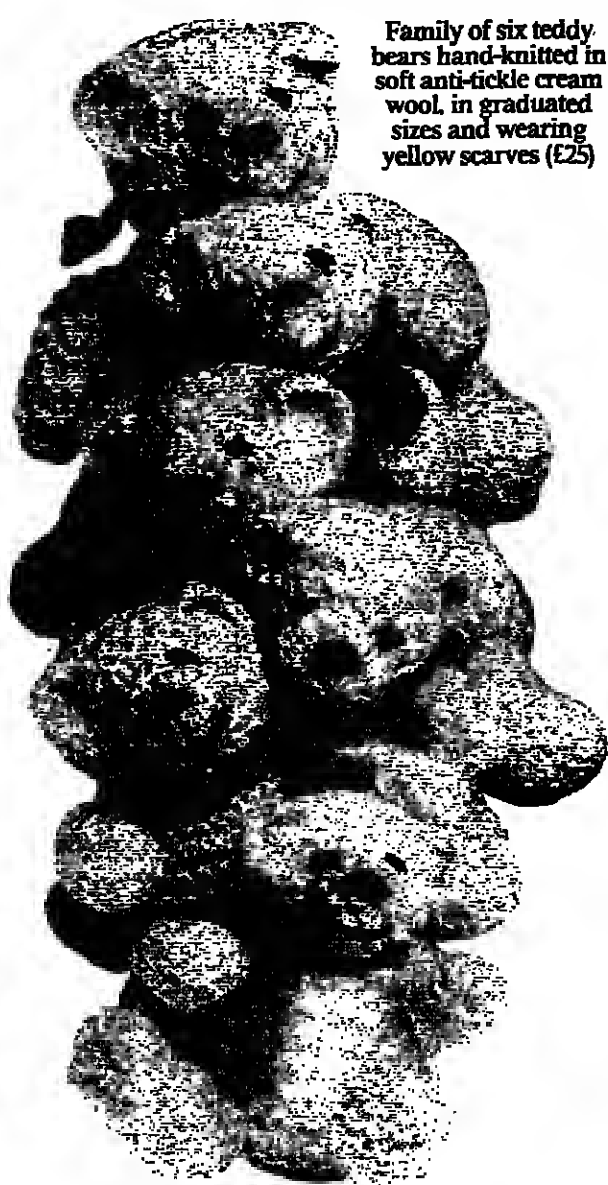


Intricately patterned wooden cuff links, hand-painted under a magnifying glass to create the minute surface patterns, with brass chain link. For men or women and suitable for single or double cuffs (£18.50)

Squirrel from the Magic Forest collection of six woodland animals. Hand crafted in beech (£33.50 the set)



Hard-wearing, traditional children's aprons in heavy cotton drill with gingham edging and large central pocket with fruit and vegetable patches. Machine-washable (£12.50)



Family of six teddy bears hand-knitted in soft anti-tickle cream wool, in graduated sizes and wearing yellow scarves (£25)

Retiring but not workshy

A mail-order company is tapping the skills of the retired

Two years ago, fired by a passionate belief that there exists in Britain a vast untapped source of creative talent, Anna Nicholas abandoned her career in public relations to start a search for a workforce made up exclusively of people past retirement age.

Her former job as senior press officer for Help the Aged had put her in touch with elderly people with "brilliant skills" who gave up when they retired. Moving on to work at The Guinness Book of Records, she frequently came across older record breakers who had no outlet for their abilities. Frustrated at the waste of so much expertise, she decided to form a small mail-order company specialising in hand-made traditional crafts all created by people past retirement age.

The first Min & Dell catalogue, covered with deep-red embossed card and fastened with a gold tassel, was launched this autumn. If the concept was the brainchild of Miss Nicholas, the inspiration came in part from her two maiden aunts, Minny and Della. Delightful women in their seventies, they talk non-stop, do weight training and underwater aerobics and have won awards for disco dancing,

which they took up after retiring from teaching.

Minny and Della's involvement with the company goes far beyond lending their names for a logo. They go on recruitment drives to find more skilled workers for Miss Nicholas. They scour dress-making classes and craft fairs for hidden talent. When they are not occupied sewing their own clothes, they make children's aprons for Min & Dell, sew zips in jumpers and finish off any garments which need their perfectionist touch.

The aunts are not the only family members involved in Min & Dell. Miss Nicholas's husband, Alan Stewart, has taken a sabbatical from work to help run the company and advise the workforce on practical matters, such as taxation. The boy modelling children's knitwear in the catalogue is Miss Nicholas's nephew.

Currently, some 150 outworkers are employed by Min & Dell. One lady, whose husband was a Maxwell pension casualty, knits wonderful sets of little cream wool bears with infectious smiles. A former microbiologist makes hand-painted silk scarves in greens, greys and beiges. A former model maker for the Science Museum, an authority on Dutch windmills, fashions

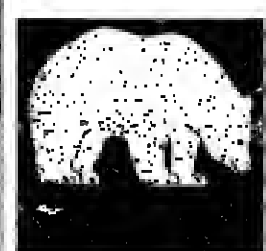
working models for collectors. A silversmith living on a barge is also a naturalist, who bases his designs on fossils and objects he finds in the forest near by. His silver ammonite cufflinks are striking.

Scattered all over the country, but forming the core of the company, are the traditional toy makers and the knitters, who make products which range from beech-wood dinosaurs to fine cream wool christening robes and Fair Isle or Aran jumpers for children. Miss Nicholas insists that all her products are made only from natural materials.

Miss Nicholas realised that not only did these talented older people have no idea how to find a market for the goods they made, they often did not even have the funds to buy materials. Now she uses consultants for each craft. These experts offer advice, supply quality control and provide the workforce with exclusive designs and patterns. Min & Dell also either sends the materials its craftspeople need, or sends money to buy them. The company also pays for the products as soon as they arrive.

When she embarked on her enterprise, Miss Nicholas was inundated with dire predictions and gloomy warnings

Post haste



□ Credit card orders received by December 21 will be delivered throughout mainland Britain within 48 hours. Orders received by December 22 for London will be delivered within 24 hours.

□ For a catalogue, ring 0483 45315. The £2.50 price is redeemable against first purchase.

about the unreliability of old people. Nothing, she says, could be further from the truth. Not only are her home workers scrupulously honest down to the last strand of wool or penny, they are loyal, and not a single one has strayed beyond an agreed deadline. In return, Miss Nicholas sends each a quarterly newsletter and a breakdown of the company's finances.

The couple's holidays are now always planned around visits to at least three or four of

the workforce. Many are isolated and enjoy this personal contact, playing their guests with vast quantities of home-made cakes and biscuits.

Although one of the fine knitters presses her shawls between heavy books because she cannot yet afford an iron, and another needs the money for heating bills, Miss Nicholas is adamant that Min & Dell is no job story. The extra income is valuable to all. One person has now saved enough money to fulfil a lifetime's ambition to go to China; another is holidaying in the Bahamas. What they all have in common is pleasure in being able to continue with their crafts, now that they have an outlet.

And the workforce is growing. No sooner does Miss Nicholas establish a network of craftspeople in one area than Age Concern or Help the Aged bring her news of craft groups in another part of the country. Local police forces now send her information on elderly people to contact. Some have even turned up on her doorstep, crafts in hand.

Miss Nicholas sees every-one she can. After all, she says: "There is only one Durham specialist in the younger end of the market. A recent Oxford graduate, she was not at the Meridian meeting, partly because she had not only organised but appeared in a

SARA DRIVER

Shake out your sequins, dust down your

Professionals paid to toe the party line

Andrew Lycett meets the planners who let you enjoy your own party

At the Meridian Hotel in London's Piccadilly at 3.30 one autumn afternoon, Diane Ferryhough is planning a smallish dinner party for her barrister husband's fiftieth birthday. Thirty-one people are coming, but with three children and a charity job to occupy her, Mrs Ferryhough does not want the bother of organising it herself. She has called in a south London party planning firm, Terrific Time, run by Peggy Aylen and her daughter, Alison. This afternoon Mrs Ferryhough is at the hotel sorting out the fine details, such as flower arrangements, with Mrs Aylen. In attendance are Jonathan Wilson, banquet manager at the Meridian, and two other professionals, who are there to make the party go with a buzz: Natasha Taylor from Laurels, the florist, and the special surprise, David Pearl of The Serenading Service, who will give 15 minutes of operatic arias.

Mrs Ferryhough first started thinking about her husband's birthday during the summer. "We wanted a simple dinner for our nearest and dearest. I rang Peggy, and she instantly suggested the Meridian. I went along and found they had a perfect-sized room with a lovely atmosphere. We booked it, and then I talked to her about having some kind of entertainment. Cost was not particularly important. Mrs Ferryhough has chosen a "middle-range menu" (about £35 a head) for the Meridian, and has asked for special wines, such as an Armagnac from her husband's year of birth. She has remained involved in the arrangements, but "I have washed my hands of the headaches. Peggy makes sure it all happens."

In hiring party planners, Mrs Ferryhough is part of a growing trend. Mrs Aylen's 25-year-old daughter Alison specialises in the younger end of the market. A recent Oxford graduate, she was not at the Meridian meeting, partly because she had not only organised but appeared in a

Party-watchers

HERE are some views of parties, fictional and otherwise.

A.N. Wilson in *Daughters of Albion*, catching a touch of party greed: "Not much in the way of a buffet had been provided... Lady Augusta had none the less managed to arm herself with a side plate and heap it with some salted nuts, about eight olives and some sausage rolls. She was the only person in the room who was eating... It would certainly be an unkindness to approach her, lest she mistook a harmless social advance as a covert attempt on her salted peanuts."

Mr Woodhouse in Jane Austen's *Emma* was against all social gatherings: "The sooner every party breaks up the better," he said.

His soundalike, P.G. Wodehouse, had a party-loving kinsman: "My Uncle George discovered alcohol as a food well in advance of medical thought."

Playwright Joe Orton on a Sixties tea party at the Simon Wards: "We talked of slavery... during tea. We talked of murder until half past five and fat children until I left at six. A pleasant afternoon."

And John Betjeman fell in love with a girl called Wendy at a party: "Was it chance that paired us neatly?"

I who loved you so completely. You who pressed me closely to you, hard against your party frock.

FRANK JEFFERY

private party the previous evening for Rob Moore, the entrepreneur behind the recent *Viz*-style tabloid Bible called *Behold the Front Page*.

For finding a venue, Terrific Time charges about £50. For £150-£250 the firm will do a complete party plan and commission professionals from among the "tried and tested" caterers, florists, photographers and DJs on its books.

The party for Mr Moore also featured Miss Aylen as part of the Slammers, a group of extrovert cowgirls who weave through a party dispensing vodka from leather holsters. The Slammers, like The Serenading Service, cater for the current taste for some form of diversion or entertainment to get a party off the ground. The Slammers are part of a co-operative called Posh which offers "parties off the shelf". If you do not want the sexy wenches from the Slammers (£150 each), you can have The Media Circus, "a team of fake paparazzi photographers", or Spanner in the Works, a bunch of clowning waiters "who reduce a party to hilarity in seconds", according to Mark Walmesley, the man behind Posh.

At the upper end of the party planning market, there are names such as the Chance Organisation, William Bartholomew Party Organising (run by the brother of the Princess of Wales's one-time best friend, Carolyn Bartholomew), and the rather more esoteric, Admirable Crichton. In recent years the Chance Organisation has done the Queen Mother's ninetieth birthday, Princess Margaret's sixtieth, the Princess Royal's fortieth, and Prince Andrew's thirtieth.

The company grew out of the success of Stowe-educated Andrew Chance's band, Chance. He added discotheques, lighting and dance floors, and now has four full-time bands working for him. His discotheque and lighting can be hired for just £1,000, but he says, "I don't think you'd be talking to us if you've only got £1,000 to spend." The cheapest dance with food and drink costs £2,500, but he is more at home with the kind of extravaganzas he orchestrated for the Caring family in the Natural History Museum, where, with three bands, lasers and caterers, there was no change from £125,000. Priors for this sort of event go up to £200,000. And one nameless customer exceeded this with his requirement to have the London Symphony Orchestra playing during dinner. Rowan Atkinson performing, fireworks on a lake, and then dancing to Belinda Carlisle and Kool and the Gang.

Mr Chance says his clients generally look for "good creative ideas on venues, themes, food and entertainment. I try to ascertain what they're trying to achieve and vaguely how much money they feel comfortable spending." His main tip to party-givers: watch for power cuts. "Unless the electricity supply is certain don't even go in to bat."

If the Chance Organisation scores with its musical expertise, Mr Bartholomew's speciality is logistics, particularly the siting of marquees, while the Admirable Crichton owns its own catering firm and, according to founder Johnny Roxburgh, is "pretty good at giving a place £28,000-worth of gloss". He has just had his best month in 12 years.

Like most party planners, Mr Bartholomew subcontract catering and floral arrangements. One of four catering companies he regularly uses is the Lumsden Twins who, working out of their own premises, charge £55-£70 a head for a full formal sit-down dinner, including linen, china and bar equipment, but not wine. A canapé party works out at £14 a head. The Lumsdens have solved the perennial problem of ensuring the right staff by establishing their own agency, Esprit and Decorum.

Doyenne of party planners is Lady Elizabeth Anson, who heads Party Planners. After 33 years in the business, she is not too proud to send out letters to mothers of daughters whose engagements have been announced in the papers. "If you had a wedding every year, you'd know exactly where to find the right caterer, the best value marquee, the photographer, the printer, wine merchant, choral soloist, toastmaster, and the rest." For £90 an hour plus value-added tax, a mother can consult Lady Elizabeth in her office.

Lady Elizabeth gets most satisfaction from helping people cut their party costs. If your caterer suggests freshly squeezed orange juice in large glasses, she counsels, you will end up with a hefty bill, because people tend to leave their glasses behind when they go to the dance floor. By the same token, a few strategically placed floral arrangements "will not only look glorious, but can actually help the way people circulate".

Below, Andrew Chance with some of his party-planning team meet banquetting staff of the Dorchester to discuss details



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The Hillman Avenger is few people's idea of a classy motor, but early models qualify for classic car insurance, are dirt cheap and, for the terminally hip, are a great post-modern joke.

THE DEFINITION
On the tip: musical term most frequently associated with earnest young men with goatees. Originally, used to describe a musical style, as in "on a soul tip". Not to be confused with a shopping trip or rubbish tip.

THE POET
Billy Childish is less of a moon/soon/June poet, and more of a blud/wisky/cigarette man (he's dyslexic). His latest shock to the system is *Poems of Laughter and Violence*, a compelling collection of his work from 1981-86 (£9 from Hangman Books).

THE TATTOO
Top Soho tattooist Dennis Cockell reveals what's going on in the tattooed jungle. Traditional hearts and flowers are still favourite for women, while men want dragons, tigers and Celtic designs under their skin.

THE MODEL
The face to replace bland male models is Mistaboom, chosen to advertise new Covent Garden shop Burro's distinctive "twisted" classics (loud check suits, Lurex shirts). Mistaboom is growing



Continuing our new series on the whims and habits of modern society

the letters of the alphabet on his face using his beard and moustache. Currently sporting an "E", he reckons it will take him two years to get to "Z". (Burro, 071-240 5120)

THE CARTOON
Soon there'll be no avoiding Beavis and Butthead, the politically incorrect heavy metal creatures currently storming MTV. Channel 4 has bought the series which will go out in the new year. Teen-Butthead mania is on its way.

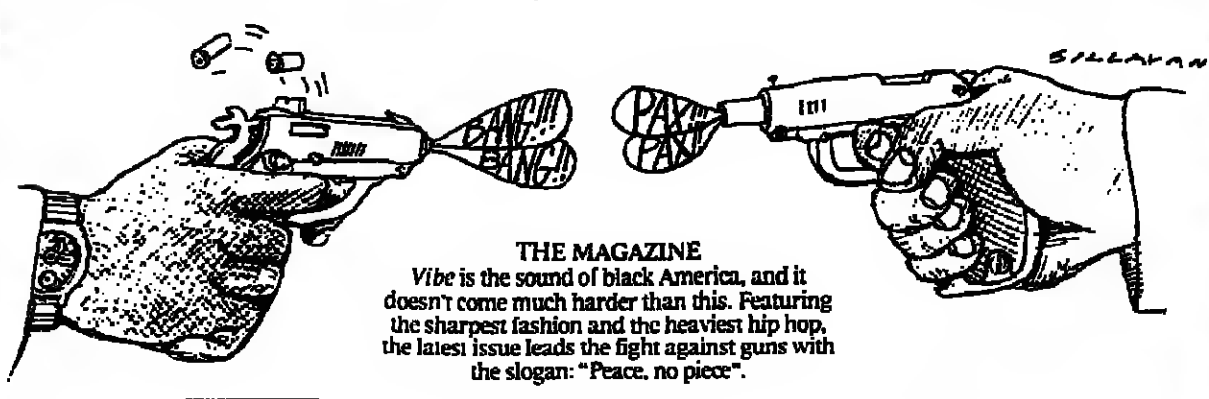
THE MOTORBIKE
Indians are sexier, hipper and rarer than Harleys. Production stopped in

1953, and Alan Forbes of Motolux is now sole UK source. But such exclusivity doesn't come cheap: a restored Chief goes for between £13,000-£17,000. (031-557 5807)

SPOT THE CULT: TRUE OR FALSE?
A) Waiter-paging restaurant service. B) The new party venue is the last 36B bus leaving Victoria on Saturday night. C) You can have your old banger converted into a sauna. D) The Curtain Net Advisory Bureau has decreed that neus are in this year.

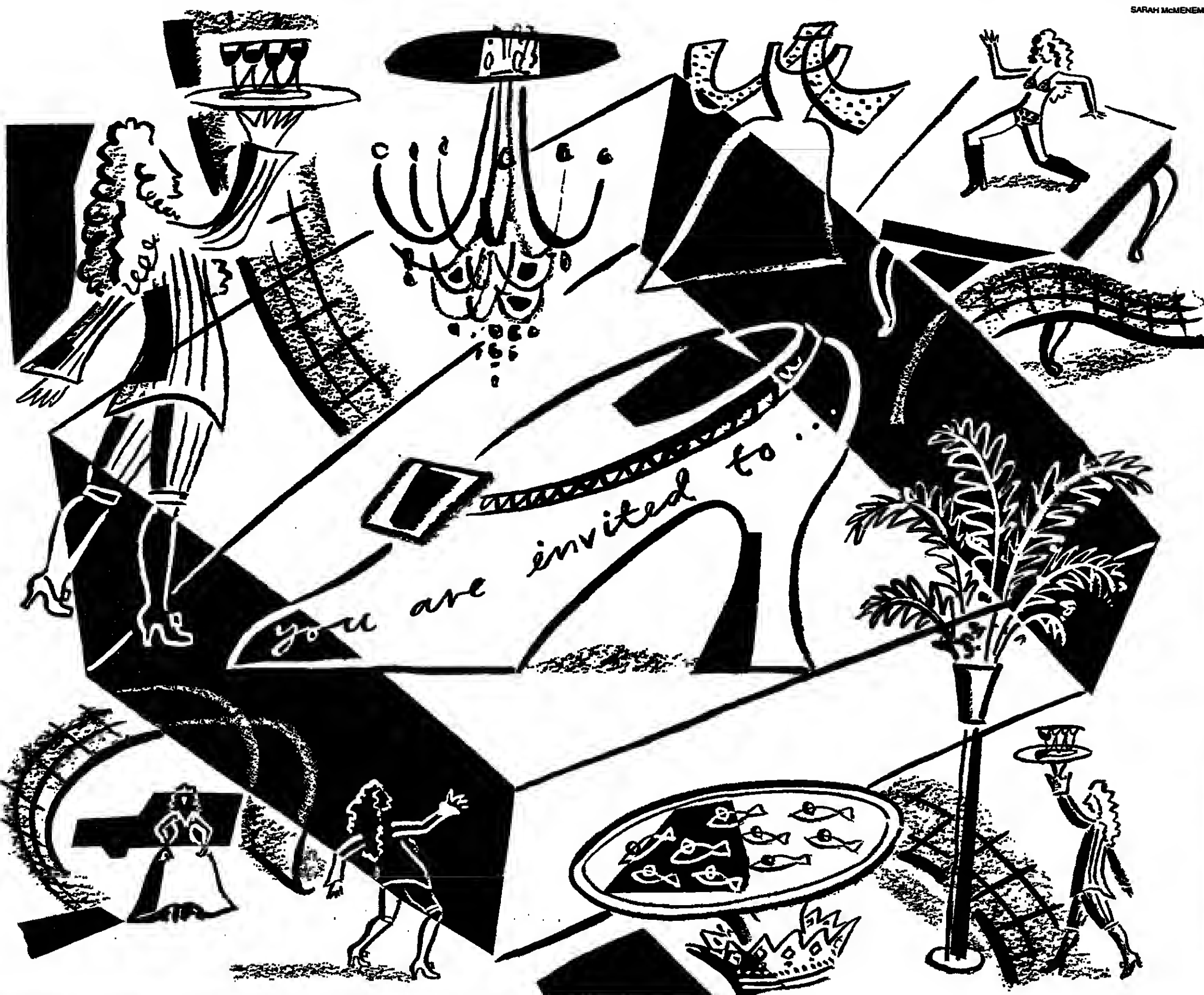
Answers
A) True. In the States, Motorola pagers make sure you get the waiter's attention. B) False. Trains to Amsterdam, yes. Buses to Catford, no. C) False. However, Dall's prototype lives on in his museum near Barcelona. D) False. The CNAB closed several years ago, so the public will have to decide.

FIONA THOMPSON



فكرنا من الأصل

dinner jacket — the party season is upon us. And to make yours a wild night to remember, a growing army of helpers is at hand



Party poopers

IF YOU go to a party in the state of New York, get drunk, drive home and have an accident, you can sue your host for feeding you the alcohol. The host is legally responsible for the sobriety of his guests.

Indeed, throughout the United States a whole new set of rules about party manners has grown up. Getting drunk at a party is now not simply a mild social misdemeanour: it is politically incorrect.

The sensitive guest may arrive with a gift of flowers or chocolate, but rarely wine these days. If he does the bottle will be politely accepted, but not opened. At grand dinner parties you may be served a single glass.

This is a far cry from the good old days. Dorothy Parker, who partied more than most, once told a friend: "One more drink and I'd have been under the host."

Now, if you arrive with friends at a drinks party, the DD among your group is an important personage. The DD is the Dedicated Driver, who will not touch a drop of alcohol. The host or hostess will ask who the DD is and watch over them.

Your invitation to any kind of gathering will state firmly when the evening ends. If it says the party's over at 10pm, the party's over at 10pm. There is no sitting around in the small hours having just one more whisky with old friends.

A friend who left what used to be Fleet Street to work on one of those sensational tabloids produced in Florida tells me: "The only time anyone gets drunk here is at parties given for and by expatriate Brits."

Frank Jeffery

Party-goers

TO CELEBRATE her 500th romantic novel, Barbara Cartland's publishers planned a party. But by the time the party was held she had written many more. The celebration was actually for the 538th book.

At a hen night party on the eve of her wedding, Caroline Horner fell in love with the disc jockey and jilted her bridegroom. She married the DJ a few weeks later.

Art gallery owner Peter Johnson found 30 other Peter Johnsons to attend a shindig. "My party has more members than the Lib-Dems in the Commons," he said.

When a Merseyside police party got out of hand, police had to be called from another station. The Queen's three garden parties each year entertain 8,000 guests in the palace's back yard.

In the US big companies take out insurance against claims of sexual harassment at their Christmas parties. Film producer David Puttnam on a £500-a-head Labour Party fundraising champagne dinner: "Nothing is too good for a socialist."

The world's biggest party — actually a series of linked parties — may have been Bill Clinton's inauguration bash. There were 250,000 guests.

Frank Jeffery

Slaying 'em in the slaughterhouse

Marlon Brando's motorbike is in the men's loo, the waiters look like Elvis and the canapés include mini hot dogs and hamburgers. These are details from a 1950s party created by Urban Party Culture, a London-based party production team that aims to refresh the weary appetites of the "been there, eaten that" party-goer.

Set up by two New Zealanders in 1991 to fill what they saw as a lack of contemporary style within a world of ruffled marquees and discreet service, the company has struck a chord with media types and other metropolitan movers. Vogue and Channel Four are among recent clients, and events with the Prince's Trust, the English National Opera and the Royal Academy are in the pipeline.

Jobs often come from the film world. They recently organised an Asian banquet, set in a petal-strewn Buddhist temple and with waiters in saffron robes, for the private launch of director Bernardo Bertolucci's latest film, *The Little Buddha*. Prices range from £3,000 to £100,000, the number of guests from 30 to 2,000. More than half their work is business presentations for clients who want a stylish image and a night to remember.

"People can be pretty jaded in cities once they've been around a few years, so you have to try to refresh," says David Scholefield, co-director of the company. "It's not necessarily by overloading with a hundred more lights and more smoke. If you increase the beats per minute



they will drop dead. The urban lot are looking for new ways to get together."

Their answer is to plan each party as a theatrical production, filled with references to contemporary culture, from Peter Greenaway baroque to 1950s rock 'n' roll.

They often build a "set" instead of relying on a hotel room for scenery. For example, a Notting Hill hall was turned into the Hollywood Bowl with 200 trees and a film-projected sky at a birthday party for film director Stephen Frears.

Waiting staff are auditioned and vetted for designer labels. Costumes and props are made or hired from theatrical wardrobe. Musical acts playing torch songs and kitsch 1960s pop are laid on mid-evening to raise the sense of drama. Creations of flowers, greenery and vegetables ("post-structural arrangements") are done by a team called Avant Gardener.

Mr Scholefield and his co-director, Jonathan Rutherford-Best, seek out places off the well-trampled party circuit to entertain party-goers who have been to the same nightclubs once too often. A Gothic mansion, a turn-of-the-century music hall and a subterranean Victorian slaughterhouse are

some of their recent London locations. Mr Scholefield believes going to an unusual place creates a sense of occasion. "People have to be taken out of their everyday reality at a party, when you're bringing together disparate groups of people who might not easily loosen up and shake down together," he says. "It's exciting to go somewhere you've never been before."

Mr Scholefield once organised a surprise party on a desert island in the Pacific for a club of Australian millionaires under 40. "They thought they were dropping out from their yacht for a drink," he says. "But we'd used helicopters and landing craft to bring stages, kitchens and bands on to the island. They got off the boat and waiters appeared from out of the bush with trays of drinks."

Even the invitations are designed to raise excitement. For the British launch of the macabre television murder story *Twin Peaks* they sent out invitations in police evidence bags with a tuft of the victim's hair.

Messrs Scholefield and Rutherford-Best have worked around the world in many different fields of entertainment, and their experience

includes both Australian cabaret and launching Westland-Augusta helicopters. They believe their cosmopolitan and varied backgrounds mean they can break free of the traditional approach to parties.

Their attitude to service certainly has a truly antipodean lack of servility. Waiting staff avoid the tradition of black-and-white anonymity but come dressed for the occasion. At a promotion for the Sindy doll's thirtieth birthday, they were dalled up like Sindy and her toy boyfriend Ken in matching wigs and make-up.

At one wedding banquet, staff paraded up to the high table carrying aloft food on platters, accompanied by a Purcell trumpet piece.

The New World influence extends to the modish and gusty range of food, which tends towards the eclectic: the latest Brazilian cocktail: focaccia with caramelised fennel, olives and artichoke hearts; crab and water chestnut won tons; Cape gooseberries dipped in white chocolate; and grilled pecan pound cake with mascarpone and maple syrup.

"People come to us because they want style, they want something quirky and interesting and not a typical vol-au-vents and pink marquee event," says Mr Rutherford-Best. "We've had very conservative clients who love it. People go pretty wild when they see they are being treated to something special. People propose at our parties."

Urban Party Culture is at 9 Talbot House, 98 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4AS (071-240 8731).

FROM BURGUNDY TO PROVENCE

AN EIGHT DAY RIVER JOURNEY ABOARD THE DELUXE 'PRINCESS OF PROVENCE'

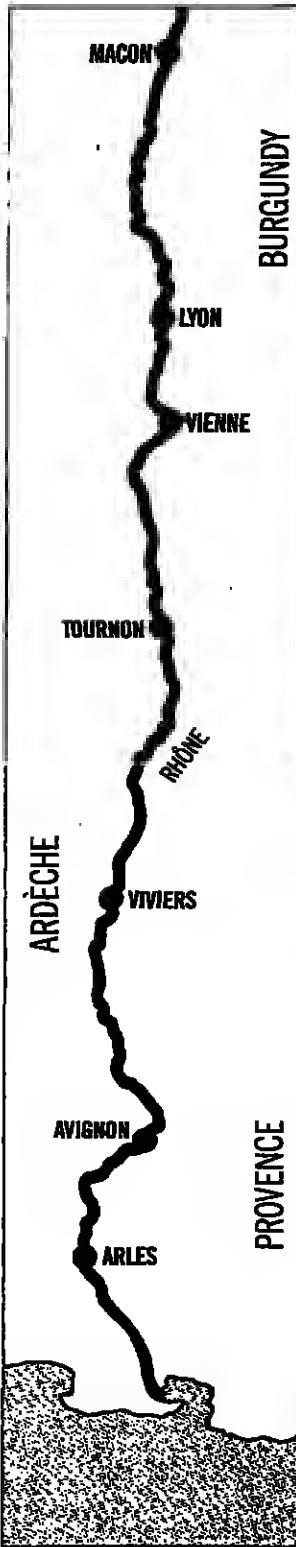


This wonderful special offer from Noble Caledonia allows one to travel through the beautiful scenery of the Saône and Rhônes during springtime, aboard the newly launched MS Princess of Provence far away from the busy roads and motorways. In the space of a week, visits will be made to Lyon, the vineyards of Burgundy, the attractive city of Macon, Trevoux in the heart of Beaujolais, beautiful Tournon, the wild and untouched Ardèche region, historic Viviers and the scenic and historic wonders of Provence including Arles and Avignon.

Such a journey by any other means would be tiring and inconvenient. By contrast what could be more relaxing than sailing along two of the loveliest rivers in Europe, visiting a new region each day and returning to the cool air-conditioned comfort of a deluxe river vessel for good food and company as we sail on to the next river port. The beauty of this part of France is undeniable as are the large numbers of visitors. Travelling by river allows the journey to be an enjoyable and traffic-free experience and using the Princess of Provence as our base for the week avoids the usual hassles of packing and unpacking as one moves along this itinerary.

The Princess of Provence is one of the finest river vessels in the world accommodating up to 140 passengers in outside, well-appointed cabins with shower and wc. The top deck cabins have french windows whilst the lower deck offers picture windows. Built in Yorkshire, she is operated by Peter Deilmann Cruises with a German/French crew.

The single-sitting restaurant offers excellent cuisine. There is also a lounge, hairdresser, clinic, shop, observation and sun deck with awning and comfortable loungers and deckchairs. The ship's orchestra performs in the evenings and on a number of nights the ship will be moored until late allowing the opportunity of a pleasant stroll after dinner.



THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 London (Heathrow) - Lyon Morning flight with British Airways or Air France. Lunch prior to embarking on the MS Princess of Provence and sail at 1200 hours.

DAY 2 Saône Morning arrival and excursion to the castles, palaces and vineyards of Burgundy visiting Dijon and the Palace of Yverdon. Evening sail to Macon. Moor overnight.

DAY 3 Macon Arrive in the morning. There will be an opportunity to visit the beautiful remains of the great abbey at Cluny. Trevoux: An afternoon in the lovely landscape of Pierres Dorées in the heart of Beaujolais.

DAY 4 Tournon Morning arrival and join a full day tour exploring the wonderful scenery of the southern and southern Alps of the Dauphin. Alternatively visit the Ardèche by steam train.

DAY 5 Arles We have the whole day in the Roman city of Arles. See the imposing Roman arena and theatre, the Romanesque cathedral and the house of Van Gogh and Gauguin.

DAY 6 Avignon Spend the day in this charming city. See the magnificent collection of art at the Petit Palais and visit the dramatic Popes Palace.

DAY 7 Vienne Morning cruising arriving at Vienne after lunch. See the cathedral, Roman theatre and museum. Continue to Lyon, arriving in the evening and moor overnight.

DAY 8 Lyon Disembark for early morning flight to London (Heathrow).

DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICES PER PERSON

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Prices subject to surcharge

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First tiny steps into the panto footlights



For many a star-struck child the amateur pantomime is an introduction to the stage. Lynne Greenwood drops in on rehearsals to talk to some of the budding actors

Nine little girls in leotards and shiny satin skirts huddle behind the curtain on stage, their excitement at the first dress rehearsal overcoming the chill of the draughty church hall. Aged between four and six, they are waiting to go through their routine for Mary Bitt, a professional dance teacher. These are the youngest members of the cast of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, this year's choice by the villagers of Bramham, West Yorkshire, for their annual pantomime.

Five of these Bramham Babes, peeping from behind the curtain, await their musical cue to run on and hand flowers to the Princess, who is warmly dressed in jeans and sweater. As they stand demurely behind her, one child waves to her mother, another skirts a finger, and a third lifts her skirt over her face.

"When you run on, can you please look keen and eager?" asks Mrs Bitt, an examiner for the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing who runs a class in the village. Her daughter, Georgina, five, is one of the dancers.

The children run on for the fourth time. "Do you hope to do it again?" pipes a squeaky voice.

"They move on to their dance routine, pointing toes, closing feet together, swaying when the music changes, spinning around and finally turning back to face Mrs Bitt — but not all at the same time.

The pantomime is very much a village affair. The local GP, John Nicholls, plays the dame, his daughter Rachel is one of the dancers. Paul French, a financial accountant who relocated from East Sussex 18 months ago, is the giant, his wife Alison, a former

designer, is in charge of costumes, and their son and daughter are dancers. Keith Richards, an account manager with a food company, is directing the show and his next door neighbour printed the tickets. A woman from across the road is organising the teas, another couple providing ice-creams, and a brave volunteer is making 300 wands.

Mr Richards chose *Jack and the Beanstalk* because it involves a cow — a first for the Bramham panto — and organised a dance in the village hall to raise £90 to hire the cow costume from a theatrical supplier.

As yet, the younger children are unaffected by potential stardom and practise without a pause, or a pose for the photographer working at their feet. But the junior dancers, the nine to 11-year-olds, are already star struck: they are rehearsing the number "Jailhouse Rock", dressed in black with black and gold waistcoats, clicking their fingers, and looking like the kids from *Fame*.

Lucy Clark is nine, and her theatrical biography already includes *Aladdin*, *Dick Whittington and His Dog*, and *Cherise*. "Last year I was a villager and I had to say something," she said. "I sometimes get nervous but I like acting. This year my mum is playing the giant's wife and my dad is doing the lighting."

Amateur pantomime plays a large part in the Christmas calendar of church and village halls throughout the country and provides thousands of children with their first chance to be on stage.

Some local drama groups get together only once a year, but for the Mossley Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, the panto is one of several productions. The society, at Mossley, near Ashton-under-



Lights, music... the Bramham Babes of Yorkshire take their first step towards stardom at a rehearsal for *Jack and the Beanstalk*

Lyne, Lancashire, began auditions and rehearsals for *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* last September. The show will go on in mid-January.

The cast of about 80 includes six junior dancers, who are rehearsing twice a week. Dionne Clarke, 12, first appeared in pantomime as an under-five. "It's really exciting wondering whether you'll get in after the auditions," she says. "Then when the letters come, you feel you haven't open it. This year 13 girls auditioned for six places."

The society will put on seven shows in a hall which holds 500, but the last night, a Saturday, is the one which creates most excitement. "When we arrive on the Saturday we always give one another a little present," Dionne says. "That night we really give it everything."

Vicky Hopton, a Manchester United fan, has been chosen to play Snow White. In her "Reds" football shirt, jeans and trainers she is rehearsing her first encounter with the seven dwarfs, although only six have turned up. "My dance teacher suggested 1 audition for the part," says Vicky, 14. "I was surprised, but pleased to get it. She learnt most of her lines while learning on a hair term holiday with her family in Tenerife. Now she is unsure whether to aim for a career as an actress or a secretary."

Adam Lockwood, seven, is a long way from thinking about a career. He just knows he loves football, basketball, running, swimming and skating. This year he is a chicken in *Wizard of Oz* on ice at the John Nike Leisure Complex at Bracknell, Berkshire. This follows



his debut role as Felix the Cat in *Cinderella* last year. His mother, Andrea, says: "He was very unskilled last year and fell over a lot. But he bounced at that age, so he just got up and got on with it."

This time, after coaching courses and private lessons, Adam is showing some talent. "I wear a chicken outfit this time and I'm involved in the pantomime twice," says Adam, who lives close to the ice rink. "I don't mind practising and rehearsing. It's all good fun."

Chris Howarth, the skating coordinator at the rink who is assisted by ten professional coaches, says 70 per cent of his cast of 240 are children aged from four upwards. A similar number of youngsters at the ice rinks in Bristol and Hull are rehearsing for the same show, and will be joined in turn by the ten

professional members from Bracknell. "The children love being in the panto," Mr Howarth says. "Most have watched skating on television and joined one of our courses. But it's not easy controlling them all on the night of the show — it's amazing how many disappear to the lavatory just at the crucial moment."

For information about joining the cast or helping backstage at a panto, contact your local school, church, post office or tourism office. Jack and the Beanstalk, Bramham village hall, near Wetherby, Wetherby, Dec 4-10 (tickets £3.50-£5.50). Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, George Lawton Hall, Mossley, near Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs, Jan 17-22 (tickets £4.50-£7.50). The Wizard of Oz on Ice, Bristol Ice Rink, Dec 10-12 (tickets £2.50-£4.50). John Nike Leisure Sport Complex, Bracknell, Berks, Dec 15-19 (tickets £2.50-£4.50). Humberside Ice Arena, Hull Dec 21-22 (tickets £2.50-£4.50).

Events

LONDON
 □ Big Friendly Giant: Roald Dahl's classic about orphan Sophie who befriends a giant. Albery Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Today until Jan 15, except Sun, 11am, 2.30pm, 7pm. From £10.50, child from £7.50.

□ The Iron Man: Pete Townshend's rock opera, for over five. The Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Today until Feb 12, except Sun, 2.30pm and 7pm. £12, child, £6.

□ Victorian Soldier: Exhibition about the British soldier from Waterloo to the first world war, with life-size models of soldiers, Florence Nightingale's jewellery and lamp, Zulu spears, and Baden-Powell's Boy Scout uniform. National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, SW3 (071-730 0171). Today and tomorrow, 10am-5.30pm. Free.

DERBYSHIRE
 □ Santa special: Christmas gro-t on a train, plus Oswald the walking engine. Midland Railway Centre, Butterley Station, Ripley, Derbyshire (0773 747674). Today until Dec 24, 11am-4pm. Adults and children £5.50, under-16s £3.50.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
 □ Christmas at Clearwell Caves: Take a quarter of a mile tour through the mines, which include Santa's gift-making workshop. Clearwell Caves, Colford, Glos (0594 52515). Today until Dec 24, 10am-5pm weekends, 2-6pm weekdays. £3 all ages (under-16s get 0 present).

HUMBERSIDE
 □ Peter and the Wolf: Puppet show followed by children's party. Eltham Hall Country and Wildlife Park, Bridleway, Humberside (0525 888080). Today and tomorrow, 2.30pm. Adults and children £6.

OXFORDSHIRE
 □ Rapunzel: traditional fairy tale for over five by the Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company. Oxford Community Centre, Prince Street, Oxford (01865 252330). Today, 7.30pm. Adult £2, child £1.50.

SURREY
 □ Sooty's World Cruise: Sooty, Sweep and Connie Creighton. Ashcroft Theatre, Fairfield Halls, Park Lane, Croydon (081-688 9291). Today only at 10.30am, 2pm, 7.30pm. Adult from £4.50, child from £4.

YORKSHIRE
 □ Family Fun day: Sing along with Sandra Kerr, who plays an array of instruments. Alhambra Studio, Morley Street, Bradford (0274 752000). Tomorrow only, 3pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

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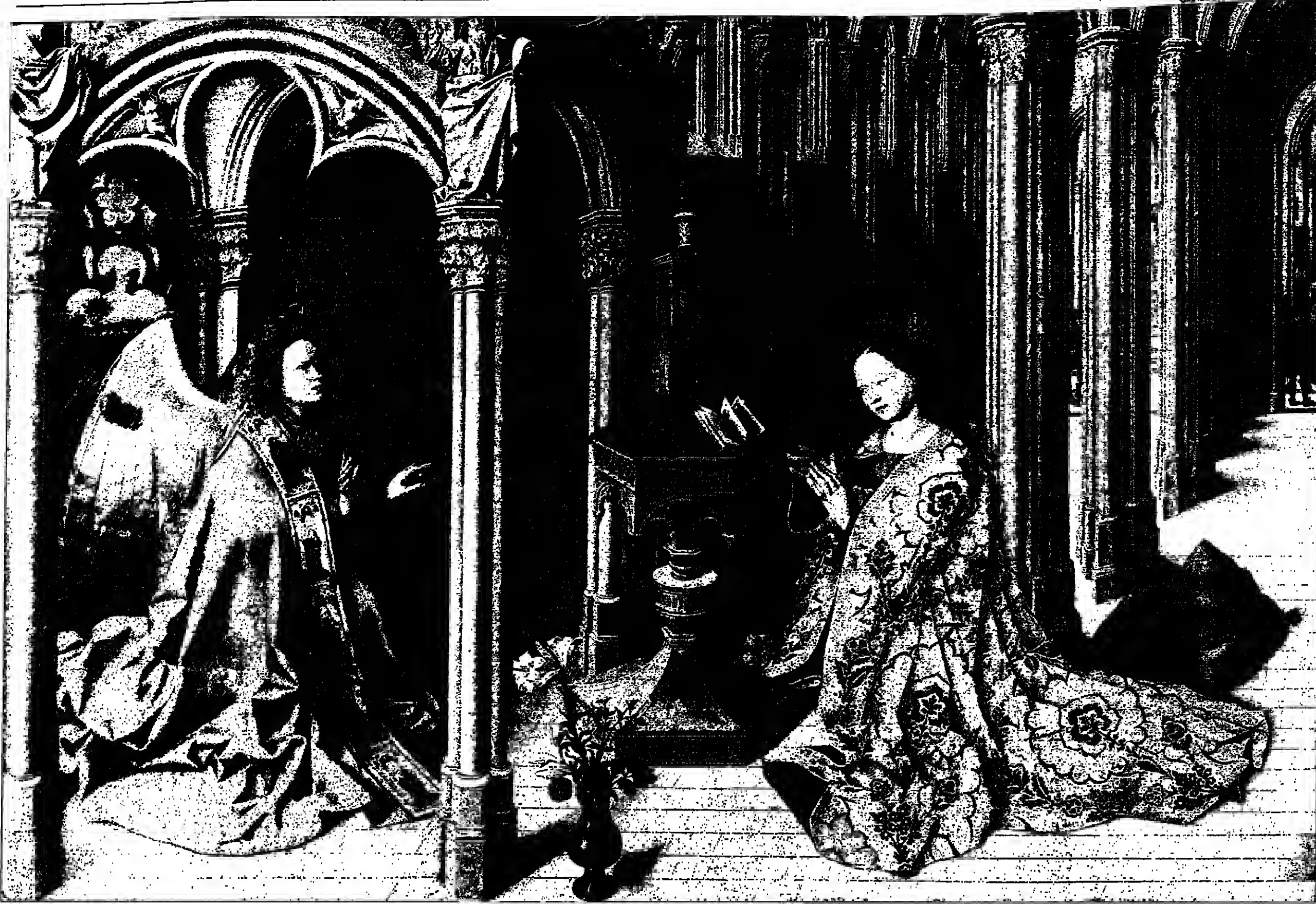
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Angels from the realms of glory

THE word angel is derived from the Greek *angelos*, which is equivalent to the Hebrew word *mal'akh*, meaning messenger. The prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah speak of winged creatures that guard the throne of God. With or without wings, the concept of spiritual intermediaries between the divine and earthly realms was known to many middle-eastern beliefs. The Evangelists, faced with the task of relating the life of Christ and His divine nature, therefore had a means of communication that would be readily recognised. During His life Christ's miracles were evidence of His divine nature. His birth and His death, however, demanded external indicators — enter the angels.



Detail from Van Eyck's *Three Marys at Christ's Grave*

Angels play an important part in Advent. It can scarcely be denied that the two crucial points in the narrative of Jesus are the Incarnation and the Resurrection. In the gospel according to Matthew both events are announced supernaturally by an angel called an "angel of the Lord", that is, not just by any messenger (angelos is Greek for "messenger") but a messenger sent by God.

In the gospel according to Matthew the father, Joseph, dreams that the "angel of the Lord" appears to him, announces that Mary has been made pregnant by the Spirit of God, and gives him instructions on how to proceed. At the end of the story, when the women come to the tomb where Jesus' body has been placed, another "angel of the Lord" descends from heaven, rolls away the stone which blocked the tomb, sits down upon it, and, having told the women that "He (Jesus) is not here: He has risen", instructs them what to do.

There is much here that is remarkable. First it is taken for granted that the reader knows who or what "an angel of the Lord" is: Joseph sees a figure in his dream and says to himself at once, "That is an angel of the Lord." The "angel of the Lord" who meets the women at the tomb is described as wearing "clothes as white as snow"; the women do not hesitate to

believe and obey his communication. Secondly, the angel in each case gives information which could not otherwise be known: he fulfils an indispensable dramatic role. In the case of Joseph, the angel is a dream figure — the apparition is removed an extra stage from reality. What the reader was to understand is that an angel was the agency for making known what would otherwise have remained unknown. Without the angel Joseph could never have known who was the father of the child.

Unfortunately, we do not know how Mark treated the event, because the first few sentences of his gospel have been lost. In Luke's gospel, however, the fatherhood of the child is announced not to the putative father but — to whom else? — to the mother, and in advance. Moreover, the angel ceases to be a dream and becomes an actual physical presence. Luke even knows his name: "the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph". Mary, the only witness, was evidently in

no doubt about the authority or the identity of the apparition.

But Luke had further use for angels. He introduced them again after the pregnant mother had moved from Nazareth to Bethlehem. There were "shepherds abiding in the field" and "an angel of the Lord" appeared to them. The apparition was authenticated by being accompanied by "the glory of the Lord" and the message was confirmed by the unique circumstances in which the shepherds were to find the child ("this shall be to you a sign"). The scene did not conclude until the angel had been joined by "a multitude of angels". So Luke had in his mind the fact that the individual angel was a member of a larger number, from whom messengers could be detached and dispatched at will.

Luke addressed himself very seriously to the announcement to the women at the tomb. They found, he says, the stone already rolled away, and the tomb empty. It was in their perplexity that two hu-

man figures — not just one — appeared and delivered the message. "He is not here: He has risen". Like the angel who appeared to the shepherds, the two witnesses were "in shining clothing". Luke has been thinking hard. He was puzzled by the fact that Matthew's angel actually rolled the stone away and did not content himself with delivering his message: it was the phenomenon of a tomb already open and empty for which he contrived to give a supernatural explanation, and that explanation was given not by an angel but by two figures not described as "angels".

The angel of the Resurrection refused to go away. John also caused the women to find the tomb empty. They summoned Peter and John; but Mary remained on the spot, and, looking in, she discerned "two angels in white", whom she asked where the body had been taken. Before they could reply, Jesus Himself appeared and the incident *noli me tangere* occurred. The scene in John is, as so often, an incomparably superior piece of drama. Yet its derivation, through Luke from Matthew, remains unmistakable: only an irrefutable event has replaced the angelic affirmation.

Affirmation, the affirmation of what, being supernatural, can only be the subject of faith, remains the function, from Nativity to Resurrection, of "an angel of the Lord". There is a natural explanation for a pregnancy, as there is a natural explanation for an empty tomb; but the gospel bridges the gap between natural and supernatural by drawing upon a resource with which readers were sufficiently familiar to accept it without query. God had messengers at his disposal for sending a notification to mankind without which it would remain in ignorance of what it most needed to know. The messengers, who carried with them a reflection of the celestial light, formed a corps at God's disposal for his purpose. By what mechanism — wings or the like — they came or went was to provide material for the reflection and experiment of whole generations of artists.

WHAT'S ON

15

THEATRE

LONDON

CABARET. Jane Horrocks as Sally Bowles and Alan Cumming as the MC, dancing with death in the last days before Hitler's takeover. W6 (01-748 3354). Previews from Dec 2, 8pm. Opens Dec 9, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

CAROUSEL. Tunes of Rodgers and Hammerstein have the familiar melody of the percussive and the mauling. The sets are clever. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (01-7379 5399). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

CELESTINA. Actors Touring Company presents this 1499 classic, as familiar in Spain as *Hamlet* over here, with Ann Firbank as the old maid.

HOW TO ACT BETTER. Acclaimed performance artist Anna Griffin offers an entertainment about the craft of acting. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6 (01-748 3354), opens Tues until Dec 11, 9.30pm.

JANE EYRE. Alexandra Mathie and Tim Pigott-Smith in the well-known romantic melodrama. Fay Weldon adapts, Helena Kaut-Horson directs. Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (01-7379 5399). From Wed, 7.45pm. Opens Dec 7, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat 3pm.

MADNESS OF GEORGE III. Nigel Hawthorne's award-winning performance of blasted, resilient monarchy. Thirty perfs only. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252). Opens Mon, 7.30pm. Then in repertoire.

ME AND MAMIE O'Rourke. Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders together in a new comedy by the author of the film *Shakespeare in Love*. W6 (01-748 3354). Previews from Fri, 8.45pm. Opens Dec 15, 7pm. Then Mon-Thurs 8pm; Fri, Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm.

THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES. Ian McKellen plays Amolphi, heading a strong cast in Moliere's affecting comedy. Almeida, Almeida St, N1 (01-359 4404). Previews from Thurs, 8pm. Opens Dec 8, 7pm. Until Jan 22.

WIND IN THE WILLOWS. Back for the really and truly last time, but running until March. Desmond Barratt's production. National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252). Opens Wed, 7.15pm. Then in repertoire.

REGIONAL
BIRMINGHAM. Patsy Byrne plays the wild and wonderful medium, Madame Arcati, in *Bite Spirit*. Repertory Theatre, Centenary Square (01-236 4455). Previews from Fri, 7.30pm. Opens Dec 7, 7.30pm. Until Jan 23.

LEADS. Sheila Hancock plays Rosa, epitome of the star's pushy mother, in *Gypsy*. Music by Jule Styne, lyrics by Sondheim. Quays Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse (01-532 44111). Previews from today, 8pm. Opens Wed, 7.30pm. Until Jan 29.

MOLD. The adventures of last year's *Christmas Carol* offer Dickens's *Great Expectations*. Theatre Chyd (01-532 755114). Previews from Fri, 7pm. Opens Dec 8, 7pm. Until Jan 22.

WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 18
ALPHAMERIC
(c) Made up of letters and numbers, a new term of jargon from computers, a compression or mongrel portmanteau from *alpha* the first letter of the Greek alphabet + *numerus* Latin for number.

BUMMERY
(b) Also bottomry, a species of contract of the nature of a mortgage, whereby the owner of a ship, or the master as its agent, borrows money to enable him to carry on or complete a voyage, and pledges the ship as repayment for the money. If the ship is lost, the lender loses his money; but if it arrives safe, he receives the principal together with the interest or premium stated. From bottom, i.e. a ship: "I know you have always wanted to join the Merchant Navy, dear boy, but you must promise me never to go in for bottomry."

ZEGEDINE
(c) A drinking cup of silver, probably from the Hungarian *zege*, Balliol College, Oxford, manuscript list of plate, 1643: "Given to the king in the year 1742 - silver plate - 5 great two-card pots, called Zegeidines."

YEYER
(b) Eager, quick and prompt, but also greedy and covetous, from the Old Norse *yfir* found only in the plural meaning witches or fiends. *Yggdrasil*, *Yggdrasil*, 1847: "Forbye the body's clean an' yeyer, / WT little blast, he's downright clever."



The innovative performance artist, Annie Griffin, becomes a glittering starlet in *How to Act Better* (see Theatre)

FILMS

NEW RELEASES

BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT (18): Murderous father Donald Sutherland returns to torment daughter Amy Irving. Jonathan Heap's clumsy thriller. MGM: Fulham Road (01-370 2538). Oxford Street (01-638 0310). Trocadero (01-434 0031). Warner (01-437 4343).

HARD TARGET (18): Unpleasant human prey thriller with Jean-Claude Van Damme. From Hong Kong director John Woo. Empire (01-497 9988) MGM Trocadero (01-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (01-792 3332).

IPS (15): Yves Montand teaches two urban louts the wonders of nature and love. Highly watchable, stylishly made from Jean-Jacques Beineix. Camden Plaza (01-485 2443). Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742).

RUBY IN PARADISE (15): Passive young woman (the striking Ashley Judd) finds her niche in Florida. Infirmale, aggravating drama from Victor Nunez. Barbican (01-638 6881).

MGM: Chelsea (01-352 5098). Tottenham Court Road (01-638 6149). Screen on the Hill (01-435 3368).

THE STRANGER (U): Wandering uncle returns to most. Satyajit Ray's endearing, often funny, last film starring Utpal Dutt. Renish (01-637 8432).

CURRENT

ALADDIN (U): Disney's brash Arabian cartoon does not match expectations, though Robin Williams' Genie is fun. Directors, John Musker, Ron Clements. Odeon Leicester Square (0426-915893).

THE MAN WITHOUT A FACE (12): Scared recluses tutors a young outcast (Nick Stahl). Queasy drama from director-side Mel Gibson. MGM: Baker Street (01-835 9772). Chelsea (01-352 5098). Trocadero (01-434 0031).

ODEONS: Kensington (0426-914088). Plaza (01-487 9988). Warner (01-437 4343). UCI Whiteleys (01-792 3332).

SO I MARRIED AN AXE (12): Is a best poet's latest (Name a serial killer?) Foolish but breezy vehicle for Wayne's World star Mike Myers. Thomas Schlemmer directs. Odeons: Kensington (0426-914088). Swiss Cottage (0426-914088). West End (0426-915574). UCI Whiteleys (01-792 3332).

THE STRANGER (U): Wandering uncle returns to most. Satyajit Ray's endearing, often funny, last film starring Utpal Dutt. Renish (01-637 8432).

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

KRONOS QUARTET: The string quartet play Schnittke's *Quartet No 2*. Louis Andriessen's *Facing Death*, and a specially commissioned collaboration with African kora player Foday Musa Suso. Festival Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (01-828 8800), Wed, 8pm.

LOHENGRIN: Tim Albery's understated and affecting staging is the first new Wagner production at the Coliseum in almost a decade. Edmund Barton sings the title role. Mark Elder conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London, WC2 (01-838 3161), today, 4.30pm; Thurs, 5.30pm.

THE MAGIC FLUTE: Martin Duncan's enjoyable Scottish Opera staging of Mozart's masterpiece has not transferred entirely comfortably to Covent Garden. Two casts share the vocal duties. This afternoon (2pm), on Tuesday evening (7pm) and on Friday (2pm) audiences can hear Sumi Jo, Amanda Roocroft, Thelma Houston, Kurt Stoll (or Gösta Winbergh on Tuesday and Friday), Peter Coleman-Wright and Robert Lloyd: while tonight and on Friday night, Eva Mei, Rosa Mannion, Yvonne Barclay, Wolfgang Holzmair and Philip Kang take over. Andrew Parrott conducts (replaced at 2pm today and 7pm on Friday by David Syrus). Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (01-240 1065/1811).

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THE SNAPPER: The master of smooch is supported by Dina Carroll. Wembley Arena (01-900 1234), Mon, Tues and Thurs, 7.30pm.

THE POOGUES: The Irish folk rockers hit the road. Newport Centre, Newport (01-252 25676), Fri, 7pm.

JAZZ
STAN TRACEY: The distinctive pianist and composer celebrates his fiftieth year in the business. London, Buffa Head (01-276 5241), today, 8pm. London, Queen Elizabeth Hall (01-928 8800), Tues, 7.45pm. Oxford, Playhouse (01-865 798600), Thurs, 7.30pm.

LOUIS MOHOLLO, JOHN LAW: The South African percussionist learns up with pianist, Law. Springfield Park House, Huddersfield (0484 807788), Tues, 8pm. Tivoli, London, N1 (01-729 2478), Wed, 7.30pm.

DANCE

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE: The company, which has just announced plans to downsize itself, is enjoying one of its most ambitious Sadler's Wells seasons ever. Tonight's bit brings together four London premieres including works by Richard Alston, the company's artistic director designate, and Christopher Bruce, taking over at the Rambert.

Sadler's Wells Theatre. Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1 (01-278 8916). Tonight, Tues, Wed, 7.30pm.

DAVID MASSINGHAM DANCE: The young company is staging three nights at the Bloomsbury. The four new works reveal a wide taste in music, including scores by John Tavener, the French disco star Canone, and the French music of John Barry.

Bloomsbury Theatre. 15 Gordon Street, London, WC1 (01-387 9629). Thurs, Fri, next Sat, 8pm.

BOOKING
DANCE BITES: The Royal Ballet is adopting a new style of touring for 1994 and the emphasis on new works performed by small groups of dancers in middle-scale venues should greatly benefit both artists and audiences.

Lakeview, Haymarket Theatre (01-533 558797), Feb 7 and 8; **Cambridge, Corn Exchange** (01-223 357851), Feb 10, 11 and 12; **Blackpool, Grand Theatre** (01-253 28372), Feb 14 and 15.

EXHIBITIONS
LONDON
THE ILLUSTRATORS: Chris Beetles's Christmas time show of the British art of illustration from 1780 onwards has become an important annual event, and this year reaches its twentieth edition. A central theme is 'The Illustrator and the Theatre'.

Chris Beetles's 8 and 10 Ryder Street, SW1 (01-838 7551). Daily, 10am-5pm, opens today until Dec 31.

BRUCE CHATWIN'S PHOTOGRAPHS: Fans of Chatwin's writing do not necessarily realise that photography played an important part in his obsessive travelling. The pictures published in *Bruce Chatwin's Photographs and Notebooks*, now on exhibition, come as a revelation: the writer's observations through the camera are as precise and official as his verbal records.

Festival Hall (Level 5), South Bank, SE1 (01-928 3002). Daily, 10am-10.30pm, until Jan 23.

DEMON OF PAINTING: Trained in the traditional style, Japanese painter Kawanabe Kyōsai (1831-99), soon broke away into boldly abstract work. This is the first extensive showing of his art (112 paintings, drawings, books).

Film: Geoff Brown: *Theatre: Jeremy Kingston; Classical Music and Opera: Owen Hughes; Rock and Jazz: Stephanie Osborne; Dance: Debra Crane; Exhibitions: John Russell Taylor, New Videos: Geoff Brown; Bookings: Kris Anderson*

FROM KYŌSAI'S CAT AND RAT, 'DEMON OF PAINTING'

and woodblock prints) outside Japan. British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (01-736 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, opens Wed to Feb 13.



REGIONAL
TREASURES FROM THE MESSAG COLLECTION: The Messag Museum in the Hague is at present closed for restoration, thus losing a selection from Messag's spectacular holdings of Barbizon School painters such as Millet and Daubigny to tour.

National Gallery of Scotland, The Mount, Edinburgh (01-332 2266). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until Feb 7.

NEW VIDEOS
BLUE (Artificial Eye, 15): Derek Jarman's extraordinary ravens on AIDS, blindness and the colour blue is unlike any film in history.

MEETINGS WITH REMARKABLE MEN (Curzon, U): How do you show in dramatic form the path someone takes on a spiritual journey? Peter Brook's biography of G.I. Gurdjieff leaves the problem unsolved. Still a fascinating film, unseen for years. 1978.

THE SNAPPER (Electric, 15): Stephen Frears's enjoyable, rough-edged version of Roddy Doyle's raucous comedy about an unexpected pregnancy. Strong performances from Tina Turner and Colin Hanks. 1993.

THE WAGES OF FEAR (Arrow, PG): Clouzot's legendary thriller about a desperate foursome driving trucks of nitro-glycerine over a scary terrain (and, in one frightening scene, a colleague's legs). With Yves Montand, Charles Vanel. 1953.

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The new Ted Hughes/Pete Townshend musical reviewed; a Broadway veteran interviewed; plus music and dance

From The Who to The Why

As you enter the Young Vic, the first thing you see is a set that makes the rubbish dump in *Cats* look like an assembly line in a Japanese car factory. As designed by Shelagh Keegan, it is a chaos of old cars, chains, cogs, dustbins, antique springs, and lead piping too far gone to be worth the stealing; and there is more to come. Hidden in its recesses is a 12ft-high figure with vast lamps for eyes, scythes and spanners for hands, huge cans for feet, and rusty junk for a torso.

If a giant had auditioned for the role of the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*, and taken up glue-sniffing after being rejected, he might end up looking and living like this. But in fact this is Keegan's imaginative version of the title-character in *The Iron Man*, which Ted Hughes wrote back in 1968. It is also the best thing in the rock-opera Pete Townshend has derived from that delightful children's story. Whenever the Iron Man trundles from the debris, the dramatic temperature rises a few degrees. Whenever he shuts back into metallic anonymity, it slides down towards zero.

Hughes's tale falls into three parts, the first of them the oddest, most poetic and best. Briefly, the Iron Man appears from nowhere, falls off a cliff for no reason, and reassembles himself on the beach by

Iron Man
Young Vic

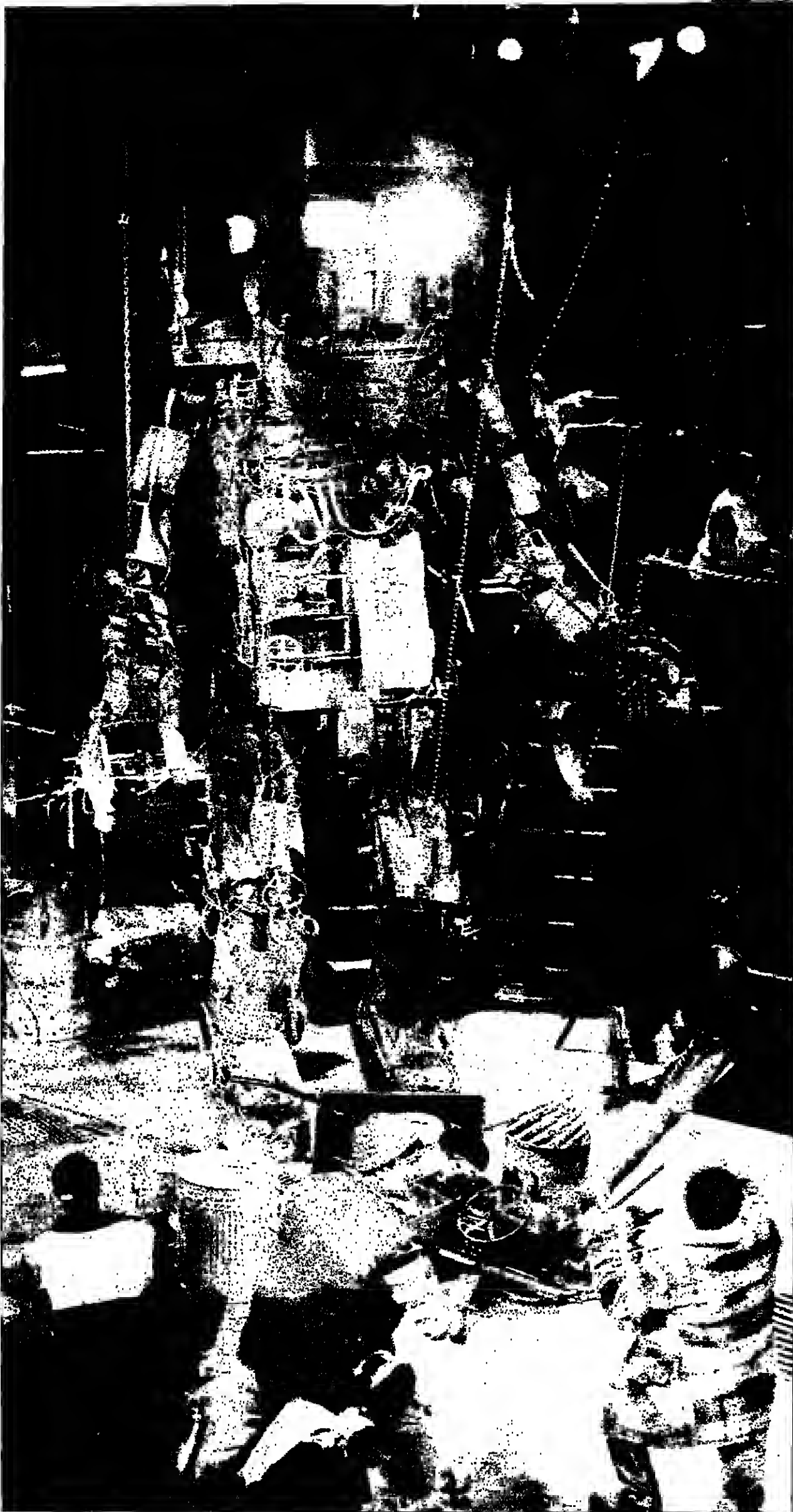
no method known to science. But Townshend and David Thacker, his director, have clearly decided that, lacking suitable crags or seas in the props department, they should make only the most desultory stab at staging the scene. Wisely, they move to the episode in which the Iron Man, who enjoys cannibalising farm machinery, is lured into a deep hole, then allowed out to become a recycling plant, gorging scrap only.

For Hughes, this is rather fun. For Townshend — whose attempts at humour are few and faltering — it is an ecologically significant event. Indeed, it is an opportunity for hero Hogarth (an earnest, harried and, for a boy, rather raddled Anthony Barclay) to join his chums in jumping about denouncing pollution: "The whole world is wrecked! By the grown-up elect... They lied about nuclear dumps! They took us for chumps." Townshend's lyrics, when audible, match those of some Poet Laureates but not, I think, the present incumbent.

His music is of course stronger, despite an odd resistance to the percussive effects the subject invites: a melodic surge for the ocean, clatter and bustle as the tale gets going, blasts as from a foghorn when the Iron Man ponders heavy metal. But even his 1970ish sonorities cannot save the third episode, in which an extra-terrestrial dragoness terrorises Earth. The incomprehension on my companion's face, as he struggled to follow a narrative he had not previously read, was comic to behold. How could he know that this black-robed lady was supposed to be a million times larger than the Iron Man, not four times smaller — and that, by briefly zooming up to an orange light in the flies, she was actually being three-quarters fried by the sun?

So to an upbeat ending, which sounds very nice but makes precarious sense. The cast (which now includes a reformed dragon and a chap in silver gloves called The Spirit of The Iron Man) appear to be in favour of life and love, to want to be free and "decide our own destiny", and to think that tears are bad things; but it is hard to see what this has to do with the story. Forget Townshend's old group, The Who. It was The Why which preoccupied me.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



The Iron Man: whenever he trundles out, the dramatic temperature rises; when he shuts back, it falls

Heavenly voice still in shape

Michael Arditti talks to the singer Barbara Cook, now back in London

Barbara Cook is possessed of a voice that can reduce strong men to tears and induce taciturn men to superlatives. A review of her breakthrough London performance in 1986 declared: "For 90 minutes, I just thought I had died and gone to heaven."

On Monday, she returns to London for a two-week season in the Green Room at the Café Royal. London audiences know her only from her solo performances but, for the two decades between 1951, when she made her Broadway debut, and 1971 she was New York's favourite ingénue, something she ironically alluded to in a song written for her by Wally Harper — "for quite some time I've heard that I'm alleged to be an ingénue..." — before listing many of the humiliations to which the breed is routinely exposed.

In fact, she denies that she was ever a true ingénue, insisting that it was "only because I was blonde with a turned-up nose that people thought of me that way". She adds that her most celebrated roles, Julie and Carrie in *Carousel*, Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*, Marion the librarian in *The Music Man* and Amelia in *She Loves Me*, were either comic or dramatic, while her most demanding one, Cene-gonde in Bernstein's *Candide*, "in which I washed in a river and came out an old crone", was a deliberate inversion of the type.

She may have been a Broadway baby, but performance was not in her blood. "I grew up in Atlanta, Georgia; no one in my family was particularly musical. And yet I can never remember life without music. I breathed and I sang. Then as I grew up, I saw a lot of movies that had Broadway shows in them. But I never wanted to be in the movies: I wanted to be in the shows that were in them."

Her first taste of Broadway itself was less enticing. "I was 12 when I went to the World's Fair with a school group. We were taken to see Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson in *The Hot Mikado*. I was bored and left after the first act." The show her mother chose for her second visit, eight years later, was *Oklahoma*. This time she stayed to the end, and stayed on in New York while her mother went home.

After a miserable period working as a statistical typist and cabaret work in Boston, she won her debut role in *Flahooley* and began to make her own contribution to the golden age of the American musical.

Of all her Broadway musicals, her favourites are *Carousel* and *The King and I*. "Those shows are so well-built; the writers have made

this wonderful path for you to walk down." But she is proudest of having created the role of Cene-gonde. "Candide was really special. It came at a difficult time in the McCarthy period. It was about name-calling and book-burning. I felt pleased to be part of it in a political sense, even though I'm not a political person."

Bernstein's score was by far the most difficult she ever sang. "Lenny was so supportive. He made it seem I could do anything. The music has been changed since, but when I first did it, it was so hard: more like a sporting event."

After hitting the heights she plunged equally dramatically. Racked by emotional and professional crises, she ballooned to nearly 21st and, for five



Cook: move to cabaret

years, she did not sing a note. "It was that I call my 'middle age'. I don't talk about it because I don't understand it. I really needed to stop work for a while, to get my ducks in a different row. I wouldn't have had the courage to stop of my own accord, so I gained weight instead."

When she re-emerged, at a 1975 performance at Carnegie Hall, it was as a concert and cabaret singer, one who is equally at home in vast auditoria like the Hollywood Golden Bowl, intimate houses like the Venice Fenice, and intimate settings like the New York's Café Carlyle. She has sung with symphony orchestras throughout the United States and in Britain, but, to quote one of her own favourite lyrics, above all she loves a piano, especially when her producer and accompanist, Wally Harper, is at the keys.

Her uniquely expressive voice encompasses ballads, blues and belters, and she constantly adds to both her repertoire and range. She has just brought out a collection of Dorothy Fields classics (*Close As Pages In A Book*) and is due to record a second live concert from Carnegie Hall. At 65, her schedule is as hectic as ever, and is likely to remain so. "If Frank Sinatra can do it at 78, why can't I?"

Curious corners of our century

MUSIC

Docklands Sinf/
Edwards
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Here was a typically intriguing programme from the Docklands Sinfonietta, and I am not referring to the fact that you could choose the colour of the booklet that tells you all about what is going to be played. Bernd Alois Zimmermann is chiefly known for his uncompromising, multi-layered Sixties opera *Die Soldaten*, so it was instructive to hear him flex his muscles rather more neo-classically in his Concerto for String Orchestra, arranged in 1948 by the composer himself from his String Trio of 1944.

Already the foundations of his curiously original approach to form and argument are heard in embryonic form, though Zimmermann does not strike a personal note as early in his career as Penderecki, who happened to be 60 on the day of this concert.

Yet Penderecki's music, like that of some of his Polish colleagues, has often seemed effective only on a rather superficial level. The intermezzo for 24 Strings of 1973 admits as much in its title, but even so there was little to thrill in this study, which canonically builds clustered textures, has the statutory passage of cacophonous free counterpoint at its climax, and then winds down to a single note at the end. The polish and considered elegance of Lutoslawski is somehow missing.

These two relatively slight pieces served as introductions in each half for undoubted

classics of our century. Last came Kurt Weill's Second Symphony of 1933, a work which proves that Weill was no mere provider of hard-edged tunes for Brecht's hard-edged lyrics, nor simply a Broadway showmaker.

The work is a real Germanic symphony, direct and appealing yet substantial, and classical rather than romantic in its roots. It is also brilliantly scored, and Sian Edwards and the Docklands orchestra, which played well enough in the short works, seemed thoroughly in their element, relishing the idiom of a work that sounds irresistible — though hardly easy — to play as well as to listen to.

And in the first half, that most personable of violinists, Tasmin Little, lavished her art upon a gorgeous account of Berg's Violin Concerto, which in its ripe expressionism might be said to be the very antithesis of Weill (and Zimmermann and Penderecki). Helped by Edwards's astute balancing and some beautifully ripe but clear colours all round, Little went straight to the tender heart of the work.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Beauty clothed in deep mystery

DANCE

LCDT
Sadler's Wells

I don't see myself looking anything but hideous in the black costuming of London Contemporary Dance Theatre's new commission, *Sand Skin*, but the dancers, being a particularly comely lot, don't do too badly. The unisex mini-gymnastics or skirts reminded me of naughty St Trinians: teamed with laced ankle boots and shrouded stockings, they must be a fetishist's delight. They do not, however, help decode the choreography's unnervingly oblique intentions.

Sand Skin helps open a Sadler's Wells season that may be the last for a company

required next year to operate in a different guise. The choreographer is French: Angelin Preljocaj, whose name was among those bandied about during LCDT's search for a director. Back home, he is also much sought after, as a director (for equally leaderless ensembles) and choreographer (who can show his work at the Paris Opéra Garnier). He also has his own group, on whom he created *Peau du Monde* (Skin of the World) from which the shorter *Sand Skin* has been distilled.

Preljocaj's programme note talks of species mutating to survive changing conditions.

But why sand? Why skin? Why the equine theme, the dancers prancing and pawing? Spotting Preljocaj in an interval, I lunged, rather ruthlessly. The title, he said, comes from the way he sees the desert, arid and uncovered, as the skin of the world. And for the horses, he worked a lot from paintings by Géricault. Yes, well, the piece remains

mystifying. Perhaps one should just concentrate on the movement, rather than casting about for the significance of women being carried like corpses, or a male duet that resembles a ritualised courtship. And taken abstractly, the choreography is sensual and beautiful, alternating action and stillness in dramatic, unusual geometries. Slender arms etch graphic outlines against the luminous, changing colours of the backcloth; hands caress or slap skin, the noise supplementing the percussive rhythms of Goran Vejvodica's score.

Compared to Preljocaj's in-

scrutability, Christopher Bruce's popular *Rooster* was a doddle; while Aletta Collins's pleasant *Shoes* seemed to be contrasting constriction (as symbolised by shoes and the ordered line of a dance class) and freedom (the bare-footed dancers running and jumping ecstatically). Both pieces use their performers less anonymously than Preljocaj's, allowing Andrew Robinson to shine as the most exciting of the newer generation. But all the dancers are impressive: Sherron Wray, Kenneth Tharp, I love them all.

NADINE MEISNER

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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The way to a man's heart is through his frumenty

Attempts are being made to heal the rift that has developed between me and my mangel-wurzels, but I fear anyone wanting to build bridges between us has got a job on his hands: the flame of love is irretrievably snuffed. My old friend Farmer White may have a little scheme up his sleeve to effect a reconciliation, for his son appeared on the farm the other day sheepishly asking if his Dad could have a mangel.

Take them. Take them all! I wept. He picked a large juicy one. I asked why his father wanted only one: one mangel alone would go hardly any way to satisfying the appetite of even a single ravenous beast. "I think he wants to try making mangel wine," was the reply. So that's his little game! He thinks he can get me roaring drunk on the stuff and hope that blind through intoxication, I will be able to face my mangels once again and declare my undying

love. Some hope, but I am grateful to him for trying. I am also deeply indebted to you for the letters you write which not only give me pleasure, but no small amount of inspiration. It is now several weeks since I raised the subject of "frumenty", as Thomas Hardy describes it, or "frummenty", as many of you say it should be spelled. Frumenty is a kind of fortified porridge, but made with wheat instead of oats and laced with dried fruits and a little alcohol. It is so delicious, nourishing and warming that, assuming I am able to bring my bloated frame to its feet after all my experiments with the various recipes you have sent, I shall make the definitive recipe my Christmas gift to you. However, I would warn you in advance that you are going



FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HENNEY

to need at least a couple of pounds of wheat, which might be tricky to come by. As it is not going to go through any "manufacturing" other than being simply soaked, you would be well advised to get hold of organic wheat; even trickier, but with organic food at least you know where it's been.

If you think that all this recipe and cooking business should be of no concern to the farmer whose job it is to provide the raw materials, let me tell you that I am rapidly coming to the conclusion that if farmers are more of what they grew, everyone's food quality would be the better for it. Pigs are a prime example.

I wrote a couple of weeks ago of my grave error in pursuing, in a modest way, extra profits by cross-



breeding my pigs. The resulting litters were bigger, longer, leaner and cheaper to feed, but their taste did not compare with pork from our pure-bred black pigs: they simply did not have enough fat. Your letters on this have poured in

like lard from a roasting tin. One in particular came from a retired executive who worked at the very heart of the meat industry. Ten years ago he was pressing the notion that the eating quality of our meat was being sacrificed to

meet the financial needs of the processors. He wrote in a report how new types of farm livestock were "...likely to have less flavour, lack texture and chewability". This all fell on deaf ears.

One traditional ham producer even wrote to say that he hardly finds it possible to buy pork for curing which has sufficient fat on it for the flavour-giving cure to be fully effective. So, not only have we turned our back on the older breeds of pig that gave us juicy pork and crackling, we have also undermined one of the great eating treats of English cooking, our bacon and our ham.

I have cured a little of my own to an old recipe used in Suffolk involving treacle, cane sugar and bitter from Adnams, our local brewer. You get black skinned bacon, which seems proper from a black pig, and you get a bacon that hits the tongue with a burst of salty sweetness that can set you reeling.

It is real bacon, and it leaves enough fat in the pan to fry the egg.

But where are the men and women who used to know every trick of the curer's trade? Have they disappeared in the quest for efficiency, profitability? Who can still cure a York, or a Wiltshire? And, more importantly, where are the farmers who can supply their basic need, which is a pig with a bit of fat on it and plenty of flavour? No doubt I shall be hearing from you.

But do not let me distract you from the immediate task, which is getting hold of some organic wheat in time for the Christmas frumenty. I am beginning to imagine the ultimate farmhouse meal: a bowl of frumenty, a slice of home-cured ham, and a glass of mangel wine. It is surely the sort of meal over which a romance could blossom. Perhaps there is hope yet for me and my mangels.

Feather report

No stone unturned



Turnstones spend their lives looking under things

DOWN on the estuary, where the waves cream gently over the sand, there are often many waders stalking about or running in and out of the water. Curlews bow forward to probe with their long, curved beaks; dunlins patter to and fro; ringed plovers stamp on the sand, hoping some succulent little creature will be lured out.

But farther along, where the pebbles and rocks begin, there is not so much life to be seen. Then you suddenly hear a sharp clatter, and you see a turnstone tossing pebbles over to see what is beneath them.

The turnstone, like the wag-tail, gets its name from what it does. It spends its life looking under things. Not only does it insert its beak under stones and throw them up with a jerk of its head; it also parts the seaweed fronds, and lifts the sprawling leaves of eelgrass. Sometimes you may see two of them trying to lift a dead fish. What they are always looking for is shrimps, winkles and barnacles.

They are winter visitors to Britain, some coming from Canada and Greenland, some from the high Arctic above Scandinavia. They are quite common on all our shores and are usually found in small parties. In their breeding plumage they have vivid tortoiseshell backs, but by mid-winter much of the colour has gone from them. Even so, they are attractive birds.

They sometimes run fast in pursuit of sandhoppers and tiny crabs; in flight, they have a boldly ried look that is distinctive among the shore birds. When the waves crash violently over the rocks, they

will move inland, feeding among rabbit burrows or in the gutters of seaside houses.

A few non-breeders stay here for the summer, but most go back to the Arctic islands, where they nest on the stones or under low plants. They lay their four speckled eggs in the shape of a cross.

Another winter visitor that can be found with them among the rock pools is an even more northern bird—the purple sandpiper. Many of these stay boldly within the Arctic Circle or in Iceland throughout the winter. They are typical sandpipers, slim and lively, with a down-curved beak. They are very dark birds, but as spring nears their plumage begins to glow with a purple sheen.

Purple sandpipers are remarkably tame, especially when compared with other waders like the nervous, screaming redstinks. They will run behind a retreating wave to pick up a wrinkle that is tumbling about in the water, then run quickly back again before the next wave breaks.

Like the turnstones, most of them have left Britain by May, and return towards October. Now is the time to go down among the sea spray and look for them.

DERWENT MAY

What's about: Birds — watch out in cold weather for unusual garden visitors such as reed buntings, skylark and meadow larks. Winkles — desert whelms, Heacham, Norfolk; great white egret, Braintree, Devon; Arctic redpoll, Sullom, Shetland. Details on Birdline, 0900 700222. Calls cost 3p a minute cheap rate, 4p at all other times.



Mike Golding, 33, working aboard Group 4 Securitas before setting off last Sunday on his attempt to break the record set by Chay Blyth for a solo, round-the-world voyage

South with a tinned goldfish

Mike Golding's obsession with sailing started in 1971, the year Chay Blyth set the record for a solo, non-stop voyage around the world. Barry Pickthall writes. Blyth's 292-day east-west trip against the prevailing winds and currents has never been bettered.

Twenty-two years later, Mr Golding is challenging his hero's record: last Sunday, he set sail from Southampton, determined to make the same voyage in 180 days.

For the next six months his home will be the 67th yacht Group 4 Securitas. The Global Challenge rules stipulate that he should receive no outside assistance, nor take on any supplies or equipment. He may anchor or beach the boat to make repairs but must not be helped in any way.

Unlike Mr Blyth, who has helped him to prepare for the voyage, Mr Golding has a satellite link. This will enable him to file exclusive dispatches to The Times. He will drop film in waterproof canisters at pick-up points we have arranged — the Canaries, the Falklands, the Horn (weather



Mr Golding in the galley

permitting), Stewart Island off New Zealand and the Cape of Good Hope.

In this first dispatch, he begins to come to terms with inevitable loneliness and the scale of his challenge.

HAVING been at sea for six days, the enormity of the task has only now sunk in. After waving goodbye to family, friends and the many well-wishers who saw me off from Southampton Water last Sunday, my world suddenly shrank to a 67th steel yacht that will be home for the next

In his first exclusive report for The Times, round-the-world yachtsman Mike Golding faces up to loneliness

with their body heat. Still, ambient temperatures are rising fast the further south I get from Britain's frozen shores. Once in the tropics, doubtless I will be cursing how hot it is.

Loneliness and the willpower to see this 27,000-mile challenge through are the greatest problems. When I crossed the Atlantic alone in 27 days in 1988, the days just dropped off the calendar. But on this voyage six days off 180 have made little impression.

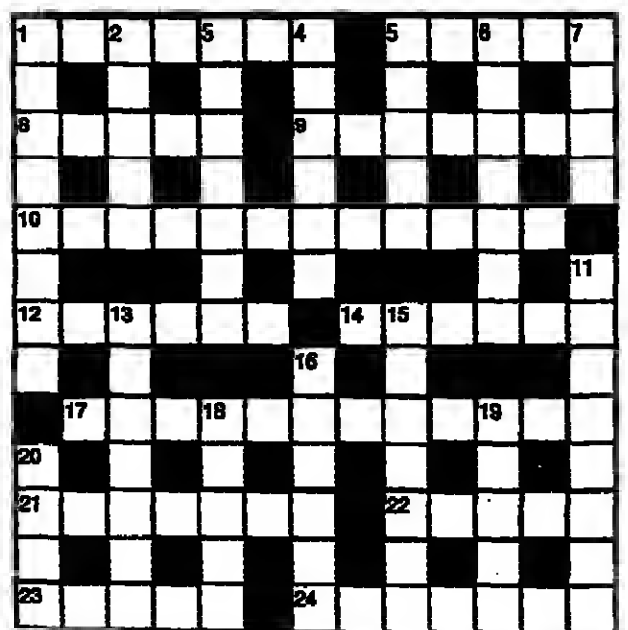
Chay Blyth, still the only person to have completed this course non-stop alone, had a series of pick-me-ups to hand when he got down in the dumps. He put a few aboard my boat before I set out, and the first — a tinned goldfish — has certainly brought a smile. Just where would you buy something like that? And how do you eat it? Both questions still have me guessing, but had the desired effect — taking my mind off immediate problems.

Below decks, two lockers are filled with more presents, some labelled "Do not open before Falklands" and "To be opened at Cape Horn".

My first problem is fuel. During the first night at sea my heart jumped when the electronic autopilot suddenly stopped working. The problem was that it had run the batteries flat, and was solved by turning on the generator. But I had planned on running the engine for only eight hours a day. It transpires that I

might need it for nine, and am having to monitor my limited fuel very carefully; the rules forbid me from picking up more, which may mean I have to cut back on the use of other electrical items.

Why didn't I fit a wind generator as a back-up before I left? It's time to open another present.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 24

- ACROSS
- Unappreciative person (7)
 - Of the Holy See (5)
 - Single-masted vessel (5)
 - Graced (7)
 - Confusing set of acronyms (8,4)
 - In which one is in luxury ... (6)
 - ... on which one is broke (6)
 - Composer of Leningrad symphony (12)
 - Joan was its Maid (7)
 - Making sense (5)
 - Burn with identifying mark (5)
 - Cart for condemned man (7)

- DOWN
- Example (8)
 - Band, association (5)
 - Conciliate excessively (7)
 - Symbolic device (6)
 - Common people (5)
 - Stance (7)
 - Queen visited by Zeus in swan form (4)
 - Lily-family plant, with yellow/white spoked flowers (8)
 - Laertes' sister, a deranged suicide (7)
 - Difficulty (7)
 - County chronicled by Trollope (6)
 - Plunge briefly in boiling water (5)
 - Bring upon oneself (5)
 - Hair-smoothing device (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 23

ACROSS: 7 Iota 8 Ivory-nut 9 Infatua 10 Loft 11 Infer 13 Sun-hat 15 Islets 17 Secret 19 Teed 21 Escargot 23 Imprison 24 Fast

DOWN: 1 Mornings 2 Malice 3 Mica 4 Molasses 5 Mycin 6 Muff 12 Suspense 14 Alehouse 16 Endure 18 Carafe 20 Come 22 Cape

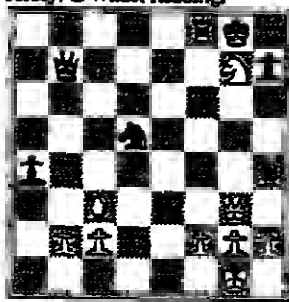
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Short - Kasparov, Times World Championship, Game 20. Here White has a killer blow which ends the game. Can you see it?

Send your answers on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer will be published next Saturday. Solution to last Saturday's com-

petition: 1 Ng5. Last week's winners are: J Hammett, Slough; A J Salsac, Jersey; G Wade, Reading.



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ALPHAMERIC
a. An American Utopia
b. The Ur Ethiopian language
c. Made of letters and numbers

ZEGEDINE
a. A Hungarian female gypsy
b. A Siberian snow-wind
c. A silver drinking-cup

Answers on page 15

NOILLY PRAT



In my case the interest rate seems to go up at this time of year...

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